THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 26TH APRIL.

THE REPORTS on the Vienna Universal Exhibition have been presented to both Houses of Parliament "by command of Her Majesty." Dr. Leitner late Principal of the Lahore College, has received Grand Diploma of Honor for Educational Appliances. The Report on Education contains the following notice of the Doctor's labors: "A distinct educational purpose was apparent in every one of his exhibits, even where an ethnographical, industrial, or antiquarian interest might seem to be paramount" The Revd. J. G. C. Fussell, M. A., Her Hajesty's Inspector of Schools, in noticing this report says: that the "Grand Diploma of Honor awarded to Dr. Leitner may be considered indirectly as honorable to the Punjab Educational Department, as to the Punjab University. Of both these he is a member, and many of the measures, which he has advocated, appear to have been first carried out in the Punjab with his aid. The Punjab Government may be congratulated on the fact that one of its servants had been instrumental in obtaining the highest educational honor gained at Vienna by Great Britain, by India, or by any other dependencies or colonies."

INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION, in noticing the honor done to Dr. Leitner, draws the following flattering picture of the Punjab Government:

"Appointed Principal of the Lahore College during a weak administration, when the garb of devotion, the mask of sociability and the ties of kinship were permitted to influence the perpetration of official jobs, when in one important public body peculation was rife, and the arch peculator was suffered to leave India without being brought to trial, the Punjab Government of that day rudely awakened from its paternal rule, at the knowledge of the seething corruption over which it had been benignly incubating, wrath at the discredit thus cast on it, viewed with censure those whom it considered to have been instrumental in bringing the matter to light, the part that Dr. Leitner played in these proceedings is too well known to need comment. He had previously been a naturalized Englishman, accustomed to the toleration of an English Government, and familiar with its political writings of every phase. His greatest mistake was that he thought India was free like England, that he did not recognize that India was held by the sword, a country under a despotic rule.

And the greatest mistake Dr. Leitner committed was his selection of the Punjab as the scene of his labors.

NOT CONTENT with the above, the same writer thus condemns the Indian Government and Society:

"The Government of India is doubly despotic—despotic over the people ruled, and despotic over the subordinate rulers and officials. This is singularly felt in such provinces as the Panjab and Oudh, where, as happened in France before the revolution, many an able man was turned into a personal enemy, and where the possession of originality of thought or of the power of intelligent utterance was viewed with disfavor by the Government. But, besides the pressure of the Government society in India is narrow-minded, and cannot tolerate superior merit. This is deemed as dangerous as the tiger of the jungle or the shark of the tropic seas. The cry of the Ephesians when they impelled their great doctor Hermodorus is the motto of all administrations in the North of India—*Nemo de nobis excellat; sin quis exstiterit, alio, in loco et apud alios sit.*

We must confess that there is much truth in the above.

STRANGE to say that the same writer who inveighs so bitterly against the despotism of the Indian Government roundly condemns the Punjab Government for shewing attention and courtesy to the Maharaja of Kashmir on his late visit to the capital of the Punjab. He says:

"And now to put the last stone on this edifice of craven fear, to feed his pride or sate his demand for respect, on the recent occasion of his visit to Lahore, the streets through which he passed to an entertainment given by the Lieutenant Governor in his honor, were illuminated as profusely and brilliantly, and his coming and going heralded with as much pomp and homage as could have been accorded to a sovereign Prince or one of the Royal family. It is difficult to understand the meaning of this. The Maharajah of Cashmere is a man whom we need not fear, and have not very much cause to honor, and this homage so constantly paid, can only be regarded by the natives as a sign of our folly and weakness, and must result politically in the very worst consequence to our rule.

In other words our Government should shew courtesy to those princes only whom they fear. This does not of course proceed from "craven fear!"

THE PRUSSIAN Correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs the following Central Asian news to that Journal:

"The Chinese campaign of Yakoob Beg of Kashgar has been successful. He has annexed the important districts of Manas and Urmutchees, and keeps a garrison at Turfan, south-east of Manas for the protection of the new Province. The inhabitants being Dungans or Mahomedan Tartars make common cause with him against the Chinese. The latter, sluggish and persevering as ever, are collecting troops at Tchugutchak, Hami, and Barkanh, the latter being intended to attack Kashgar, while the former are to recover Manas."

Mr. Shaw appears not to have heard anything of the preparations even for this expedition.

SOME INTERESTING REMARKS are made in a letter to the London *Examiner* illustrative of the necessity of scientific physical education for boys and girls for the harmonious development of bodily, mental and moral faculties. The writer says:

"In 1836,' of 20, 410 recruits, 7,761, or 380 per 1,000, were rejected, 211 per 1,000 suffered from diseases of the eyes, varicose veins, small malformed chest, curvature of the spine, varicocele, muscular tenuity, heart disease, and unsound health.

The height of every 10,000 inspected was—

8,989	under 5	feet 9	inches.
9,524	„ 5	„ 10	„
375	above 5	„ 10	„
104	„ 6	„ 0	„

The weights in 10,000:—

99	less than	100	pounds.
352	„	110	„
2,486	„	120	„
5,934	„	130	„
8,345	„	140	„
9,556	„	150	„
444	. . .	150	„ end above.

In the four years 1864 '65 '66 '67 the average of rejections was 408 per 1,000 recruits.

Another proof of the low physical condition of the people is that of 5,567 boys applying for service in the navy 4,410 were rejected."

Surgeon-Major of the London recruiting district, after inspecting 25,000 recruits, says "I must candidly assert that the physique of the infantry is not up to the standard of our race." A comparison of the physique of the old Haileyburymen and the new Competition-wallas also suggests the same inference.

TUESDAY, 27TH APRIL.

THE MARCH number of the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal contains a most interesting report by Babu Rajendralala Mitra on the Researches carried on by him for collecting information regarding Sanskrit MSS. in Native Libraries. We will make a few extracts from it. The Babu thus notices the substance of paper used for Sanskrit MSS.:

"The manuscripts examined have mostly been written on country paper sized with yellow arsenic and an emulsion of tamarind seeds, and then polished by rubbing with a conch-shell. A few are on white Kasmiri paper, and some on Palm-leaf. White arsenic is rarely used for the size, but I have seen a few codices sized with it, the mucilage employed in such cases being acacia gum. The surface of ordinary country paper being rough, a thick coating of size is necessary for easy writing: and the tamarind-seed emulsion affords this admirably. The paper used for ordinary writing is sized with rice gruel; but such paper attracts damp and vermin of all kinds, and that great pest of literature, "the silver-fish." thrives luxuriantly on it. The object of the arsenic is to keep off this insect, and it serves the purpose most effectually. No insect or worm of any kind will attack arsenicised paper, and so far the MSS. are perfectly secure against its ravages. The superior appearance and cheapness of European paper has of late induced many persons to use it instead of the country arsenicised paper in writing puthis; but this is a great mistake as the latter is not near so durable as the former, and is liable to be rapidly destroyed by insects. I cannot better illustrate this than by referring to some of the MSS. in the Librarys of the Asiatic Society. There are among them several volumes written on foolscap paper, which dates from 1820 to 1830, and they already look decayed, mouldering, and touched in several places by silver-fish. Others on John-letter paper, which is thicker, larger and stouter are already so far injured that the ink has quite faded, and become in many places illegible whereas the MSS. which were originally copied on arsenicated paper for the College of Fort William in the first decade of this century are now quite as fresh as they were when first written. I have seen many MSS. in private collections which are much older, and still quite as fresh. This fact would suggest the propriety of Government records in Mofussil Courts being written on arsenicised paper instead of the ordinary English foolscap, which is so rapidly destroyed both by the climate and also by white-ants. To guard against mistakes, I should add here that the ordinary yellow paper sold in the bazars is dyed with turmeric, and not at all proof against the attack of insects."

REGARDING the use of palm leaf Babu Rajendralala Mitra says:

"The palm-leaf is not now much in use, except in Orissa and in the Mufassil vernacular schools as a substitute for slates. In Bengal the Chandi is the only work which is now-a-days written on palm-leaf as there is a prejudice against formal reading of that work from paper MSS.—a prejudice in many respects similar to what obtained in Europe against printed Bibles in the first century after the introduction of printing. Formerly two kinds, of palm-leaf were in use, one formed of the thick strong-fibred leaflets of the *Corypha taliera (tiret)* and the other of the *Borassus flabelliformis (talapata)*. The former is generally preferred for writing Sanskrit works, as it is broader and more durable than the latter, and many MSS. are still extant which reckon their ages by five to six hundred years. The leaflets of the *Corypha elata* is sometimes used in lieu of those of the *taliera*. The leaflets of all the three kinds of palms are first dried; then boiled or kept steeped in water for some time; then dried again; cut into the required size and polished with a smooth stone, or a conch-shell. For school use no such preparation is necessary.

THE PRACTICE of writing on bark, says Babu Rajendralala, is of the greatest antiquity. He observes:

"The birch bark, Bhurjapatra (*Betuta dhurja*) is extensively used as a material for writing upon, but only for amulets, it being too, thin and fragile for books. I have by me a piece of this bark about a hundred years old, which on a space of ten inches by eight, contains the whole of the Bhagvatgita, written with letters so small that they are illegible to the naked eye and require a magnifying glass to be read. It was evidently intended to be worn as an amulet inclosed in a locket of gold or copper, but it had never been so used. Whether the bhurj bark was ever pasted or glued into thick sheets I cannot say."

BABU RAJENDRALALA MITRA relates the following anecdote showing how fresh paper may be converted into decayed material:

"The mice are particularly destructive, as they not only gnaw cloth, broads and palm-leaves but by their liquid discharges, rapidly destroy the texture of arsenicised paper. The fact was first brought to my notice by a mukhtear when I was a boy. He asked my permission to put two sheets of fresh-looking, written, stamped paper for a night on the bottom of a cage of white mice which were my pets. The permission was granted, and the next morning the papers were taken out, stained and decayed very like old documents, which they were, I then learnt, intended to pass for. I was also told and shown that by careful and repeated washing with a mixture of the fluid discharge of mice with water, paper can be made to assume the appearance of any age that may be desired: the effect produced is not confined to the surface, but is perceptible even in the texture of the paper."

THE BABU makes the following remarks on the age of Sanskrit MSS.:

"The oldest palm-leaf manuscript I have seen bears date Samvat 1181=A. C. 1132, and the oldest paper manuscript as aforesaid is Samvat 1367=A. C. 1310; but such records are exceedingly rare, and the general run is from 150 to 250 years. Among old MSS. taken to Europe, Dr. Weber, in his invaluable catalogue of the Berlin collection, notices several codices ranging from 4 to 6 hundred years. Seeing that charta bombycina has lasted in Europe from eight to twelve hundred years, this age for works which claim to be from two thousand to three thousand five hundred years old, is very unsatisfactory; but the climate of Bengal and manner of keeping MSS. here, as above described, are highly unfavourable to their preservation for a long time, not to advert to the wholesale destruction of MSS. in large Maths, and richly endowed temples which must have resulted from the ravages of those whose co-religionists burnt the Alexandrine library."

THE AMIR of Cabul seems to be bent upon speculation. It is stated that on hearing the opening of the Northern State Railway of India His Highness has resolved to supply the fuel from his State. He has issued purwanahs to Kardars of Jalalabad, Kunair, and Mana Kneyl, directing them to buy as much wood as possible at Chatrus, and to have the same stored in different places for convenient delivery to the Railway authorities. He has moreover directed Hajee Mohamed Husun Khan, Dawk Moonshee at Peshawur, to establish three fuel mundees there and to inform the authorities of the collection. He has given orders for the establishment of another mundee at Bunnoo. We are told that the timber business has proved so lucrative of late that the Maharajah of Cashmere and the Amir of Cabul have both become timber merchants on a large scale.

THE SEVERITY of the cold in America this year is said to be without parallel in its history for the last 40 years.

IN THE United States the preachers cost six millions of dollars, the dogs ten millions, criminals twelve, lawsuits thirty-five, tobacco 610,000,000, and liquors 22,000,000,000!

WINDMILL POWER is being extensively utilised in New York. The *American Manufacturer* says that upwards of a hundred windmills of a new and improved form are now in use in private houses near that city for pumping water, sawing wood, grinding, &c., and in many instances are superseding steam and other agents of motive power.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH APRIL.

IT IS stated that Colonel Phayre has sent a formal protest to the Secretary of State relative to his recall from Baroda—a step of which it is understood he complains as a wrong demanding reparation. It is added that the Government of Bombay is not inclined to remain quiescent with regard to the somewhat unceremonious "usurpation" by the Government of India of the management of affairs at Baroda. What next and next?

It is announced in the London correspondence of the Dublin papers that Mr. Reeve, the Editor of the *Greville Memoirs*, was not at the last levee, that his name has been struck off the Lord Chamberlain's list, and that his revelations have probably cost him the succession to Sir Arthur Helps' place as Clerk of the Privy Council, the office held by Greville.

The Madras Times has the following:

"The Madras Government, or Government House, is now delighting to honor the Princess of Tanjore and her husband. Marine Villa has been placed at her disposal, the Governor's band serenades her nightly, and feminine durbars have been held in her honor. All this is, perhaps, as it should be, but it brings in to more prominent notice, some recent omissions to pay due respect to princely visitors. The Maharajah of Travancore lately visited us. His Highness is a reigning sovereign, and, of course, a person entitled to much more honorable treatment than a merely titular princess can lay claim to. Yet he has bee permitted to be the guest of a private citizen, and was offered no attention or honours save those that he was strictly entitled to by the law of custom. This is, politically, a serious blunder."

Surely the age of chivalry is not gone.

A rumour is current that the Prince of Wales is to be made a Field Marshal before leaving for India. It is stated that the Princess is not to accompany her husband.

The murder case in Travancore in which Mr. White, a European, is the accused, is now being investigated by Mr. Ballard, the Resident. Mr. J. H. Prince, an Advocate of the Madras High Court, lately enrolled as a Vakil of the Sadr Court, defends the accused, who has received substantial assistance from the European residents and coffee-planters. The *Cochin Argus* is quite sure that "if White had gone about begging for a few rupees to pay his house rent, he would have been set down as a loafer, and shewn the door. But directly that he has got into a scrape, and accidentally killed a man who came to demand his rights, numerous friends have sprung up, and subscriptions are pouring in for his defence."

We are glad to learn that Sir John Strachey proposes to offer scholarships to students in the North-West Colleges for the study of physical science.

The late Mr. Reid, M. P., for Kirkcaldy, for which Sir George Campbell has been elected, says the London correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*, was a remarkable man. He began life as a merchant in China. Having made money he returned to England, and at the age of thirty five—having been by that time a married man for eight years!—he entered himself as a student at Oxford, and took his degree of B. A there in 1869 He then entered the Inner Temple, and was called to the Bar in 1872. He had no intention of practising law, and the whole object of the course of study through which he passed was the better to qualify himself for a seat in the House of Commons. This object he attained last year, but unfortunately he did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his labors.

A Belgian Professor, M. Menetrier, has just published a scientific work, in which he declares the weight of the earth to be about 5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (five thousand trillion) tons!!

It is said in art circles that Gustave Dore will receive £10,000 for illustrating Messrs. Cassell's magnificient pictorial edition of Shakespeare.

Thursday, 29th April.

In order to encourage the growth of potatoes in British Burma, the local Government has offered three prizes of Rs. 50, Rs. 25, and Rs. 15 for the best samples grown in Tongoo Hills in the year 1876.

The World tells us that a patent has been taken out for propelling tramway-cars by means of coiled springs of great strength, on the principle of the main-spring of a watch; by this means, horses will be dispensed with. These springs will be wound up by machinery; and so that there should be no break in the continuity of a journey, several are to be carried all ready to replace those which have run down. It is said, a rate of thirty miles an hour can be attained by this invention, and that it might be made applicable to the beautiful *cunkar* main-trunk roads of India even without the intervention of tramways.

The Melbourne Argus publishes the following report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India on the cure of snake-bites by injection:

"1.—The result of our experiments on dogs goes to show that the intravenous injection of ammonia possesses no antidotal or remedial power. 2.—That the intravenous injection of ammonia, probably by promoting the absorption of the poison, rather expedites than retards the tendency to death. 3.—That the India cobra is from six to thirteen times more poisonous than the snakes of Australia. 4.—That a given quantity of the cobra poison is more powerful and more rapidly mortal than the same quantity of Australia snake poison. 5.—That a large proportion of the bites of the two kinds of Australian snakes with which we experimented were under the usual conditions, altogether ineffective. 6.—That the facts alluded to in 3, 4, and 5, are sufficient to account for the unmerited recognition of the intravenous use of ammonia as an antidote or a mode of treatment in poisoning from Australian snakes."

It affords us great pleasure to notice that Sir Richard Temple has appointed Babu Omesh Chunder Dutt to officiate as Principal of the Krishnaghur College during Mr. Lethbridge's absence. This is the first instance of the appointment of a native gentleman at the head of a State College, though temporarily.

The New Director of Public Instruction in Madras it is said made a joke in his speech at the Presidency College by referring to schools wherein the education "begins with A. B. and ends with B. A." Not bad.

On dit that Sir Richard Meade, Special Commissioner at Baroda, will revert to his appointment of Commissioner at Mysore, after the formation of the new native administration at Baroda. It is said that Mr. S. C. Bayley, the Commissioner of the Patna Division, will be appointed Resident at Baroda. At such a time as this there ought to be an officer at Baroda, who has knowledge of the Maharatta character.

The following is the summing-up of the European Members of the Baroda Commission:

"We believe that the evidence, after making every reasonable allowance on the score of the character of the witnesses, proves.—

1*st*.—That an attempt to poison Colonel Phayre was made by persons instigated thereto by Mulhar Rao, Gaekwar.

2*nd*.—That the said Mulhar Rao, Gaekwar, did by his agents and in person hold secret communications with some of the servants employed by Colonel Phayre, the Resident at Baroda, or attached to the Residency.

3*rd*.—That the said Mulhar Rao, Gaekwar, caused monies to be given to some of those servants.

4*th*.—That his purposes in holding such communications and causing such monies to be given were,—1*st*, to obtain information of what passed at the Residency relating to himself and the affairs of his State; and, 2*nd*, to cause injury to Colonel Phayre by means of poison."

Friday, 30th April.

Dr. Kenealy, says *Indian Public Opinion*, has been spending his Easter holidays in right regal fashion. He visited the provinces and was received by joyful crowds wherever he went. Somehow or other, there is no doubt that the mass of the people entertain the conviction that the heir to all the Tichborne Estates is tailoring away at Dartmouth. Dr. Kenealy, more than any man, may be said to be the hero of "the unwashed." What though he be disbenched, disbarred, disgraced, and discarded from society?

"What classes of men," asks a writer in *Fraser's Magazine*, "recover best from wounds and severe accidents? Much important testimony affirms, it is those who eat least of flesh meat. Eminent surgeons testify that in this respect the Indian and Chinese far surpass the English soldiers, and attribute it to their vegetable regimen."

"Flying-kites" has been prohibited by the Municipal Committee of Etawa, "except with the written permission of the Committee, or of a Magistrate, or of the District Superintendent of Police." Kite-flying has been classed as an offence against public safety. What next and next?

The Lucknow Times says that the custom of temporarily burying the bodies of those, who die of cholera and afterwards digging them for cremation, is prevalent in Oudh. This practice of disinterring the corpses was considered unhealthy, and was forbidden by the Chief Commissioner in 1872, acting it is said under the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner. There has evidently been a change in the theory of sanitation of late, as we find that the Sanitary Commissioner now considers that the disinterring of cholera corpses for cremation is *not* likely to give rise to any danger!

Mr. Nanabhai Haridass continues to act as a Judge of the Bombay High Court during Mr. Melvill's absence.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs, America, have agreed to report a bill supplementary to the Acts in relation to immigration, which seeks to prevent the importation of women from China, Japan, or any other oriental country for lewd and immoral purposes. the violation of the law is to be visited with severe penalties.

According to the *Indu-Prokash* Dayanand Saraswati has at last succeeded in founding an Arya Samaj in Bombay. The Somaj acknowledges the Vedas to be revealed and bases its tenets thereon. It declares its belief in one God and aims to be against idolatry. The Samaj proposes to establish a Sanscrit College for the study of the Vedic lore; to educate both males and females; to publish vernacular translations of selections from the Vedas; and to establish a weekly paper for the propagation of its views.

We learn from the *East* that the retention of Noakhally as a district has been decided upon. The Government of Bengal proposes to enlarge the district by attaching to it a sub-division, to be established on the bank of the Feni, consisting of three thannas taken respectively from Chittagong, Tipperah and Noakhally.

Saturday, 1st May.

Indigo Riots, says the *Behar Herald*, have become the order of the day in Behar. Our contemporary lately noticed two serious affrays, one at Tirhoot and the other at Beheea, at each of which a ryot was killed. He now notices two fresh disputes, one in Chumparun and the other in Shahabad. He gives the following particulars of the two cases:

"The Pursa Factory, which, we learn, is managed by one Mr. Hudson, has lately obtained a lease of a village from the Moharajah of Bettiah. The object of the planter is of course to make the best harvest possible; but the ryots, as is usual, are doing their best to thwart the object of the planter, and the consequences is that there has been a disturbance. The ryots are, we understand, loudly cursing the Moharajah of Bettiah for making them over to the tender mercies of the planters. Mr. Hewitt is, we hear, doing his best to quell the disturbance.

The facts of the other case are these:—

The manager of the Belish Factory, which is owned by Mr. Solano, wanted to establish a new market in his own compound to the prejudice of the one existing there for some time—an attempt, which was resisted by the owners of the old market. The result was that there was a serious riot attended with *loot*. The Factory people have been committed to the sessions, and we will anxiously await the result."

Things we fear are coming to a crisis in the Indigo districts of Behar, which demand is a Commission of Enquiry.

The health-returns of Calcutta shew that deaths from cholera and small-pox in the town are numerous. The total number of deaths for the week ending on the 10th April was 308 out of which deaths from small pox were 48 and from cholera 77. The total number of deaths for the week ending on the 17th instant was 315, out of which deaths from small-pox were 37, and from cholera 64.

The Englishman has received a telegram to the effect that the funeral of Lord Hobart was largely attended by representatives of all classes of the community. There was an immense gathering of natives. Unfortunately this melancholy occasion was followed by another tragic event. As the procession crossed the Nallajah, the Bridge footpath gave way, and precipitated many Natives into the river Cooum. Nine lives are reported as lost.

A sad case of alleged suicide has occurred in the house of one Babu Nundolal Mitter, Bagbazar. The poor girl, who is said to have committed suicide, was only eleven years of age, and newly married by the Babu. At the Coroner's inquest, certain facts and circumstances were mentioned, which require that a sifting enquiry should be made into the case. The Deputy Commissioner of Police we are glad to learn is vigorously prosecuting enquiry.

Referring to the cause of quarrel between the Government of India and the King of Burma, the *Pioneer* says: "A more trumpery occasion for coming to blows with him can hardly be conceived." Our contemporary then observes:

"If only the Foreign Office could establish the complicity of Burmah in the late treacherous attack on the expedition to Western China, there would be a righteous pretext of sending a force there which, in the present temper of the Indian Government, would certainly be made the most of. But with all the wish to discover such a pretext, there is, we are assured, nothing whatever in the evidence yet before Government to reasonably justify the suspicions with which the Burmese authorities must, nevertheless, from their known proclivities, continue to be regarded."

We do hope that the Burman affairs will be settled amicably.

The Englishman hears it as a rumour that Sir Richard Temple may go to Madras as successor to the late Lord Hobart and the Hon'ble Mr. Eden may take his place in Bengal. This is not unlikely, if the statement be true that the Secretary of State contemplates to put the Presidency Governors in the position of Lieutenant Governor, and when it is remembered that Sir Richard has not yet received his famine reward.

A Parsi youth has recently left Bombay as an apprentice on board a steamer to learn the art of navigation. The *Madras Athenæum* commends this example to the Eurasians. We wish other native youths would follow in the footsteps of this enterprising Parsi youth.

We take the following telegrams from the morning papers:

London 24th.—The majority of the English journals acknowledge the necessity of deposing the Gaekwar, but they consider the present action of the Government demonstrates that the Baroda Commission was a mistake.

Dr. Kinealy's motion, urging a Royal Commission of inquiry into the subject of the Tichborne trial, was defeated last night by 433 to one, after a protracted debate; Mr. Disraeli and

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Bright powerfully opposed the motion. Dr. Kinealys speech was principally confined to a weak attack on the misbehaviour of the Judges. The Marquis of Hartington announced that he would introduce on an early date a motion to place the relations of Parliament and the Press on a more satisfactory footing.

26th.—A grand banquet was given on Saturday, the 24th instant, at the Mansion House to the Board of Works. The Prince of Wales was present, and made a speech in which he said that he looked forward with the greatest interest and pleasure to his intended visit to India, which had been the dream of his life.

27th.—A semi-official denial has been given to the assertions of the German press that the French army is undergoing accelerated organization and mobilization, and that a concentration of cavalry has been made on the eastern frontier.

Hussein Arni Pacha, the Turkish Grand-Vizier, has been dismissed by the Sultan.

28th.—Lord Cardwell has announced his intention to move on Monday for the rejection of the Regimental Exchanges Bill.

In the House of Commons last night, all strangers, including the Prince of Wales, were excluded for twenty minutes on the motion of Mr. Biggar, Home-rule M. P. for Cavan. Mr. Disraeli and several other members indignantly censured Mr. Biggar, who defended his conduct by asserting his wish to place the relations between Parliament and the press on definite and satisfactory footing.

War between China and Kashghur is apprehended. Friendly relations exist between Kashghur and Russia.

The Prince of Wales was duly installed as Grand Master of the Freemasons in the Albert Hall yesterday. The ceremony was magnificent, no fewer than 7,000 masons being present.

30th.—Papers relating to the First Baroda Commission have been presented to Parliament, accompanied by a despatch from the Marquis of Salisbury fully approving the Viceroy's proceedings in the matter. Lord George Hamilton promised to communicate the papers relating to the Second Commission, and deposition when received. Motions have been announced for and against the action taken by Indian Government towards Gaekwar.

Repeated demonstrations have been made by the populace, and students of Gratz against Alphonso, brother of Don Carlos. The Military dispersed the rioters, many of whom were wounded.

"While acknowledging the difficulties of the Governor-General's situation, the Press generally condemns the deposition of the Gaekwar."

"It is understood that a motion will be made in the House of Commons about the matter."

WE ARE requested to announce that Father Lafont will deliver his usual fortnightly lecture at St. Xavier's College on Thursday next at 7 P. M.—subject "the chemical effects of electric currents."

THE BENGAL TIMES reports the prevalence of cholera in several parts of Dacca. A correspondent informs us that cholera has nearly depopulated Brirumpore, a village in the sub-division of Bongong. He says that there is no supply of good drinking water in the village.

A CORRESPONDENT at Allahabad says that Sir John Strachey has resolved to appoint native getlemen to the higher grades of the Police, and as an earnest he has appointed Mr. Hahmid, son of Syud Ahmud Khan Bahadur, C.S.I., to be Assistant Superintendent of Police.

WE HAVE received a pamphlet containing rules and tables of the Oriental Government Security Assurance Company Limited. It holds out great advantage to native insurers, and those, who wish to avail themselves of the benefit of this company, should apply to Mr. Mehta, the Calcutta Agent of the Company, for a copy.

A PARSI DRAMATIC COMPANY have arrived in Calcutta from Bombay. Mr. Dave Carson has come forward to co-operate with them. We commend them to lovers of the drama in the town.

WE HAVE received the first number of a new periodical entitled the *National Magazine*. Its contents are fair and promising. We wish the new *Maga* every success.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals:—1. The Students' Manual of Mental Philosophy. By Asutosh Biswas M. A. 2. History of Sikim in Bengali. By Umesha Chunder Roy, Head Pundit, Sudder Vernacular School, Julpigori. 3. Datta Kowstuvam, 100 verses in Sanskrit on the teachings of Chaitana, by Kadar Nath Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Pooree. 4. Rules and Tables of the Oriental Government Life Insurance Company. 5. *Hindu Durpun* a Journal of Literature, Nos 1 to 3. 6. Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of British India for the month of January 1874-75 and for the ten months ending 31st January 1874-75 compared with the corresponding periods of the year 1872-73 and 1873-74. 7. A Report on Sanskrit MSS. in Native Libraries. By Rajendralala Mitra. 8. The National Magazine, No. 1 April 1875. 9. Baroda Album of the *Oriental Figaro*. 10. Third Report of Sett Gokuldas Tejpal Charities.

ON THE PRINCIPLE of better late than never we acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Baroda Album kindly forwarded to us by our contemporary of the *Oriental Figaro*. This serio-comic version of the Gaekwar's trial does great credit to the distinguished artist, who has thrown a new light on the trial. Such a production would command the widest circulation in Europe, but we fear talents such as Caro possesses are not much appreciated in India, where real merit is a drug in the market.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1875.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ON THE BARODA COMMISSION.

THE RESOLUTION of the Governor General in Council on the Report of the Baroda Commission clears up one point. Whatever his mistakes, His Excellency is not inconsistent, as we had concluded in our last in the absence of the papers on the subject. By the Proclamation of the 13th January last the Paramount Power had "suspended" His Highness the Gaekwar from the exercise of sovereign functions, and appointed a High Commission to enquire into the serious imputation laid against him of attempting to administer poison to Col. Phayre. It was declared that "to instigate such an attempt would be a high crime against Her Majesty the Queen and a breach of the condition of loyalty to the Crown under which Mulhar Rao Gaekwar is recognized as ruler of the Baroda State, and moreover such an attempt would be an act of hostility against the British Government, and it is necessary fully and publicly to enquire into the truth of the charge and to afford His Highness Mulhar Rao Gaekwar every opportunity of freeing himself from the grave suspicion which attaches to him: *And Whereas*, in consequence thereof it is necessary to suspend Mulhar Rao Gaekwar from the exercise of power, and to make other arrangements for the administration of the Baroda State: *It is hereby notified* that from this date the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council temporarily assumes the administration of the Baroda State, and delegates all the powers necessary for the conduct of the administration to the Agent to the Governor-General and Special Commissioner at Baroda. The administration will be conducted as far as possible in accordance with the usages, customs, and laws of the country." It was finally declared that "in accordance with the gracious intimation made to the Princes and chiefs of India that it is the desire of Her Majesty the Queen that their Governments should be perpetuated, and the Representation and Dignity of their Houses should be continued, a Native Administration will be re-established in such manner as may be determined upon after the conclusion of the enquiry, and after consideration of the results which such enquiry may elicit." Such was the Proclamation of the 13th January last. Now the Governor General finds His Highness Mulhar Rao guilty of the imputations preferred against him, and therefore considers him guilty of an "act of hostility against the British Government," justifying his deposition. He has re-established a Native administration and "perpetuated" the House of Baroda by giving the widow of Khandur Rao the right of adoption, and to the adopted son the same rights, powers, privileges and honors secured to the Gaekwar under the treaties and the sunnud of Lord Canning.

So far the Governor General, as it appears from the Resolution, which we had not before us last week, is consistent. But we cannot say that his decision commands universal assent. We have carefully perused the Resolution, and while we admire the ability with which the evidence has been analyzed, we are constrained to observe that it does not carry conviction to the mind. We doubt whether the Government has acted consistently with its position and dignity by entering into such an elaborate analysis of the evidence. By doing so it has unconsciously surrendered its position as an impartial judge, and acted as a special pleader. If the statement which the Government of India has published had come from the Advocate General, who prosecuted the Gaekwar, it would have come with perfect propriety. But put into the mouth of the Governor General it appears in a wrong place. Take it as a whole, what does it amount to? The Governor General in Council remarks, "it appears to the Government of India that the evidence establishes beyond the possibility of contradiction two cardinal points: first, that the Gaekwar was in personal secret communication carried on by night with five servants employed at the Residency, and that he gave money to Raoji, Narsu, and Amina, three of those servants: and secondly, that a serious attempt was made to administer a fatal dose of poison to Colonel Phayre by the agency of two of those servants *viz* Raoji and Narsu." Admitted, but what is the evidence of these low accomplices worth? His Excellency in Council makes a lame apology for accepting their evidence. He asks: "is there then any sufficient ground for disbelieving what these witnesses say? It is said, that, whoever committed the crime, they are accomplices in it, and that by their own showing they are very wicked men, who have not scrupled to attempt the life of a kind master and to aid in throwing the blame on an innocent fellow-servant. That is quite true, and it must excite the greatest suspicion of their evidence, and until the greatest caution into the minds of those who examine it. At the same time, it must be remembered, that direct evidence of nefarious plots is not often procured except from accomplices; and that to reject such evidence merely on account of the source from whence it comes, would be contrary to common sense and to universal practice, and would frequently prevent the discovery of truth. What is necessary in such cases is to apply to the evidence given such tests as are usually employed as the touchstones of truth, and to require the evidence to withstand the tests much more severely and rigidly than if it had come from an unsuspected source." But there is no corroboration of their statements. It is admitted that the Residency servants used to visit the Gaekwar secretly, but the object was obvious. He wanted information, and sought to secure the good will and favor of the Resident. It is notorious that some of the pet domestic servants of our high officials possess great influence over their masters, and the Gaekwar had evidently recourse to the same means that other princes and private individuals do for effecting the same object. He was foolish to have done so, but such foolishness is committed by others. It would appear from the evidence of the Ayah that he was so anxious to secure the favor of the Resident that he apparently suggested charms—this part of the Ayah's evidence did not shew that the Gaekwar was bent upon poisoning Col. Phayre. But it has been asked that if it be a fact that poison was administered to Col. Phayre, and that the Residency servants were in confidential communication with the Gaekwar, and that it was they who had committed the deed, who else could have instigated them, but His Highness, for he had a direct motive in plotting the removal of the Resident? Now, the Resolution of the Governor General itself suggests a counter-theory. "It is true," observes His Excellency in Council, "that the Gaekwar's Counsel rather suggested than argued that Damodhur Punt or Bhow Poonekar might be the authors of the attempt to poison." His Excellency in Council adds, "but there is not a particle of evidence to support either suggestion, and both are justly dismissed in very brief terms by the three Commissioners who have signed the joint Report." Of course it was merely a suggestion of the Gaekwar's Counsel, but it was not necessary for him to argue it out, for he could hardly prove it. He could only prove the innocence of the Gaekwar, and when he exposed the true character of the evidence adduced he naturally concluded that he had done his part. He could not for a moment believe that the Commissioners or the Government would believe the evidence of low accomplices. If such evidence were to be received in Court then no man's liberty would be safe. The European members of the Commission observe that it "is difficult to distinguish political from personal dislike in the mind of the Gaekwar towards Colonel Phayre. There has been nothing elicited in this enquiry to shew that there was any personal discourtesy exhibited by Colonel Phayre to the Gaekwar. The hostility between Colonel Phayre and His Highness arose entirely, so far as we can see, from differences of opinion in matters of State, but there can be no doubt that the dislike entertained by the Gaekwar was both political and personal. They therefore come to the conclusion that the instigation for this foul attempt must have come from the Gaekwar. They do not consider that has the Governor General in Council considered for a

moment whether it was at all probable that the Gaekwar should have been so mad as to have plotted to administer poison to Col. Phayre on the 9th November when he had addressed the Governor-General for his removal on the 2nd idem. Further, if as Col. Phayre stated that he had felt symptoms of illness from taking the sherbet in both September and October, then the process must have been going on for some time past, and if the Gaekwar was really at the bottom, he could have surely encompassed his object much faster, and would not have troubled His Excellency the Viceroy with a complaint. It is difficult to reconcile these two contrary moves, or rather contrary motives of action—the one implying a straightforward and honorable course and the other an abominable course.

The Resolution of the Governor General has we are sorry to observe a most unfortunate effect. In the first place the majority of the public do not accept the decision of the Governor General as sound or consistent with the general character of the evidence, and this opinion is the more strengthened when it is remembered that Her Majesty's Government has refused to base its action upon the report of the Commissioners and the conclusions of the Viceroy. This shows that not only is the Commission divided but that the Indian Government is also divided in opinion, and such being the case, it would have been both proper and just if the benefit of the doubt had been given to the Gaekwar. In the third place the Viceroy publicly declares that he accepts the opinion of the European members and rejects that of the native members, and in saying so he observes: "Three out of the six Commissioners who have entered upon the enquiry are of opinion that he is proved to be guilty. Now, when three gentlemen, of great experience in the ways of this country and in weighing and drawing inferences from evidence, unite in an opinion condemnatory of a person into whose actions it has been their duty to enquire, and that opinion is not set aside by superior authority, it is impossible to say but that there must rest at least a grave suspicion on the person so condemned." We do not know how this opinion may be regarded by the Native Commissioners. It needs be borne in mind that the Native Princes made great personal sacrifices in accepting the position offered to them by the Governor General. As independent princes they allowed themselves to be put on the same footing with the officers of the British Government, and to be presided over by a British Chief Justice. But they had a solemn duty to perform, and it redounded not a little to their credit when they did not allow their sense of dignity to interfere with their sense of duty. And when with their knowledge of the peculiar position of Native Princes and of Native character generally they came to the conclusion that the imputations against the Gaekwar had not been proved, propriety at least suggested that some deference should be paid to their opinion. We are willing to admit, as the Governor General in Council remarks, that "the Commission was not a judicial tribunal, but was appointed for the purpose of informing the mind of the Government of India by enquiry and report." But when His Excellency has accepted the opinion of the European Members, and rejected that of the Native Members, it shews that His Excellency has not acted quite independently of the Commissioners. There was only one course open to our Government in the complications which had ensued viz., giving the benefit of the doubt to the Gaekwar. Mulhar Rao might have been restored under conditions, which would have kept the way clear to his deposition, if he did not mend his ways.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON THE BARODA COMMISSION.

If the decision of the Governor General is unsound, that of the Secretary of State or Her Majesty's Government is wholly unjustifiable. The former whether right or wrong is consistent, but the latter is open to a charge of gross breach of faith. The Secretary of State cannot say that he is ignorant of the history of the Baroda business; some of the papers were published in the *Gazette*, and others must have been laid before him before this high game was commenced. Indeed, the general impression is that though the Baroda policy was Lord Northbrook's own, still he must have been acting in concert and concurrence with Lord Salisbury. Such being the case, it is hard to understand how the latter could on the face of the distinct pledge of the Governor General to give the Gaekwar twenty months' grace for the reformation of his administration depose him on the ground of misgovernment, while rejecting the opinion of the European Members of the Commission and the Governor General as to His Highness's guilt in the poisoning case. This was the inconsistency to which we adverted last week, but it appears from the papers since published that the inconsistency is not Lord Northbrook's but Lord Salisbury's. Now, the Secretary of State must have been well aware under what circumstances the Gaekwar was placed whilst undergoing the probation. The greatest mistake the Governor General had originally made was to have allowed Col. Phayre to continue as Resident after the termination of the first Commission. It was plain that the Resident was not well disposed to the Gaekwar and that His Highness could therefore scarcely expect fair play at his hands. This was abundantly proved in his evidence before the Commission. Col. Phayre admitted that he did not support the appointment of Mr. Dadhabhoy Naoroji as Minister of the Gaekwar, and that he did open his ears to "informers," whom he considered "perfectly honorable," but whose sole object was to do mischief to the Gaekwar. The relations between the Gaekwar and the Resident became gradually so unpleasant that the former lodged a formal complaint before the Governor General and applied for the removal of the latter immediately before the poisoning occurred. His Highness had submitted a khurita to the Viceroy, in which he stated as follows:

"From the events which occurred prior to your Excellency' Khureeta of 25th July, 1874, it is plain that the administration of the State cannot be carried on and the necessary reform introduced without the cordial support of the Resident. It had occurred to me, among other matters I desired to say in reply to the above khureeta, whether I should not solicit your Excellency's attention to the position which the present Resident, Colonel Phayre, had all along taken up towards me, and to submit for your Excellency's consideration whether, with the want of sympathy which existed between us, I could expect an unbiassed and fair treatment at his hands in future. I, however, refrained from troubling your Excellency, owing to the confidence expressed by your Excellency in Colonel Phayre, and in the hope that, seeing the course I resolved to adopt on receipt of your Excellency's advice, he would forget the past and assist me with his active sympathy in the difficult work of introducing a reformed *regime*. But I deeply regret to say from the experience of the past three months that this hope has not only been not realized, but that, on the contrary, Colonel Phayre has evinced, if anything, a more determined and active opposition towards me and my administration than before."

After giving some instances illustrative of the bias and obstructiveness of Col. Phayre, His Highness says:

"This attitude on the part of the British representative has naturally become a source of serious anxiety to me, especially as in such times persons are not wanting who for their private ends take advantage of this state of things to misrepresent me and to instigate continuous resistance to my authority among my subjects. The result will be a great loss of revenue this year and a continuance of the unsettled state of the minds of the people. How seriously this state of affairs must embarrass and obstruct me in my intended reforms it is not difficult to conceive.

"Your Excellency knows well the extent and nature of the work before me, and I owe it to myself and those whom I have engaged for that work to submit how hopeless any efforts on my part would be if Colonel Phayre were to continue here as representative of the paramount power, with his uncompromising bias against me and my officials.

"I beg it to be understood that I do not impute other than conscientious motives to Colonel Phayre; but he is too far committed to a distinct line of policy and to certain extreme views and opinions, and he naturally feels himself bound to support all and everything he has hitherto said or done. He makes no allowances. He forgets that till the officials I have asked for came I could not make much progress in the mahals, and continues to lend a ready ear to complaints against me, thus defeating the very object which he says he has in view of helping in the arduous task before me. Colonel Phayre has been my prosecutor with a determined and strong will and purpose, and that he should now be made to sit in judgment upon me is, I must submit, simply unfair to me. From only three months' experience it is clear that he has prejudged the case, and I cannot expect an impartial report from him. I leave myself into your Excellency's hands. Your Excellency has asked me to stake my all on this trial, and I must therefore request your Excellency to place me in a condition in which I can really have the fair trial your Excellency has given me."

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows:

"I deem it unnecessary to discuss with your Highness the reasons you have given for desiring a change in the Baroda Residency. But after a careful consideration of the circumstances that have taken place, and, moreover, in pursuance of the determination of the Government of India to afford your Highness every opportunity of inaugurating a new system of administration with success, I have made arrangements to depute an officer of high rank and of wide experience in political affairs to be the representative of the British Government at your Highness's Court.

"Accordingly I have appointed Sir Lewis Pelly, K. C. S. I., my agent for Rajpootna, to be my Agent at Baroda, and he will present this khureeta to your Highness.

"In giving to your Highness the great advantage of the advice and assistance of an officer of such high distinction, who has filled important political functions with great ability and to my entire satisfaction, I have now done everything in my power to aid your Highness in the efforts which I am glad to be informed by the khureeta under reply, are being made to reform the administration of your Highness's territories in consequence of the khureeta I addressed to your Highness on the 25th July, 1874.

"I shall await with anxiety the reports which I shall receive from Sir Lewis Pelly from time to time of the progress of the measures which your Highness is taking with this object."

This is what Mr. Dadabhoy Naoroji, the ex-Minister of Baroda, wrote to the papers about the opposition he had received from Col. Phayre:

"Colonel Phayre says I made no complaints to him about his course of proceedings. Colonel Phayre may have forgotten but as a matter of fact I did complain to him several times. Colonel Phayre says he gave me all the assistance in his power. Had I been so fortunate as to have recieved that assistance no necessity would have arisen to write the khureeta of 2nd November. Colonel Phayre says I more than once acknowledged the assistance he had given me in the matter of the Sirdar cases and others. True; but I am only sorry that the occasions were few and far between. I had more occasions to thank Sir Lewis Pelly in one week than I had for thanking Colonel Phayre in three Months, and I was able to do more work both towards introducing new reforms and redressing old complaints in one week with Sir Lewis Pelly, than I was able to do in three months with Colonel Phayre."

It is thus evident that if the Gaekwar could not carry out the desired reforms during Col. Phayre's incumbency it was not his fault. Now, what was Col. Pelley's report? In a letter dated the 15th February last, after the temporary deposition of the Gaekwar, he wrote as follows: "My instructions were to afford the Gaekwar one last opportunity for reforming his departments of State under my advice, and that, in so far as I was aware, His Highness was fully cognizant of the situation, and sincerely desirous of redeeming the past, by carrying into effect a thorough reform of his administration." There was thus a perfect harmony between the Gaekwar and the new Resident, and an earnest desire on the part of the former for reform. The measures proposed by Col. Pelley were generally accepted by His Highness, and they were going on smoothly enough. Then came the charge of poisoning, and the scenes of the drama changed. We will now dismiss from our minds the previous character of the Gaekwar and his personal incapacity to rule, for when he was deemed fit for a trial he ought to have been allowed every fair play. Confining ourselves to the probation to which he was subjected we have ample evidence shewing that he was sensible of his situation and anxious to reform. Such being the case with what consistency has Her Majesty's Government deposed the Gaekwar on the score of misconduct, misgovernment, and incapacity to rule? Whatever his misconduct, whatever the misgovernment, and however true his incapacity to rule, they had been condoned by the Government of India by the grant of twenty months' grace, and it appears from the latest telegrams that the Secretary of State had concurred in these proceedings of the Governor General. Now to make the old grounds a pretext for his deposition in the face of the solemn pledge of the Government to give him a fair trial is, we cannot help saying, a gross breach of faith. It is doubly reprehensible—1stly because it breaks plighted faith, and 2ndly because it destroys the prestige of the Government of India in the estimation of its princes and people. If the Secretary of State did not concur in the decision of the Government of India, in common justice to the Gaekwar he ought to have allowed him the benefit of the doubt and restored him, subject to such conditions as he might have thought proper to impose. But his action exhibits in the worst light the present system of double Government for India. The princes and people of India look upon the Viceroy as the representative of the Crown, and regard his authority supreme, but the interference of the Secretary of State in this matter has swept away this delusion. We admit that in the theory of the Indian Constitution the Secretary of State is the last authority, and that politically it is desirable that he should on fitting occasions exercise his power of cou-

trol. If he resolved to exercise that power in the present case, considerations of policy and justice equally required the continuation of the probation to the Gaekwar. But the decision of the Secretary of State has gone against the Government of India and the Gaekwar alike, while it is calculated to produce the greatest alarm and dissatisfaction amongst the whole body of Indian feudatories. It is a sad illustration of the old saying—might is right. As a question of State policy the action of Her Majesty's Government is most unfortunate.

THE NATIVE MEMBERS OF THE BARODA COMMISSION.

WE must confess that the public have been agreeably taken by surprise by the bold front presented by the native members of the Baroda Commission. Little did they expect that these princes would assert their independence and give expression to their honest opinion. The relations of the native princes with the Government of India are so anomalous that the public did not mean any slur upon them when they supposed that they would say *ditto* to their European colleagues. But we repeat the public have been agreeably surprised. The native members have not recorded elaborate minutes, but have said enough in support of the opinions they have expressed. His Highness the Maharaja Scindia says:

"As to the attempt at poisoning, from the whole case as it came before me, as far as my judgment and belief go, I am not convinced that the charge is proved against Mulhar Rao.

Out of a large number of persons connected with this case, only three witnesses.—Raoji, Narsu, and Damodhar Punt,—have given their evidence in reference to the above charge. All these widely differ in their statements; and the reasons are given in the proceedings. How could they be considered trustworthy? The evidence of Pedro, the butler, and Abdulla and the non-production of Salam, Yeshwant Rao, Khanvelkar, Gujaba, Nuradin Borah, and the Hukim, are in favour of the accused. Further, it is far from my belief, that the measures for poisoning should have continued so long a time, and in so open a manner.

Such an act is performed by one or two confidentials, and not by such a large number of people.

Now, when a small quantity of poison, once administered, could put an end to a man's life, there appears to be no reason why it was given and drank so repeatedly. I see no grounds to reject the chief arguments of the able gentleman Serjeant Ballantine. It is a fact worthy of consideration that Mulhar Rao made no hesitation whatsoever in handing over Salam and Yeshwant Rao at once to Sir Lewis Pelly, and expressed his disire to give him every assistance in his power.

Sir Dinkar Rao's opinion is to the same effect. We make the following extract from his opinion:

"Out of a large number of persons connected with the case, only three witnesses, *viz.*, Raoji, Narsu, and Damodhar Punt, have given their evidence in reference to the above charge. All these three differ in their statements. Damodhar Punt's statement as to the purchase of diamonds is disproved by the evidence of Hemchand and Atmaram. He stated that he had not opened the packets to see the diamonds and arsenic. Damodhar's name has not been mentioned either by Raoji or Narsu. It is stated by Damodhar Punt himself, that he made his statement owing to the troubles he suffered from his having remained in the custody of European soldiers for sixteen days, his object being to get himself rid by making statements of some kind. The statements of Raoji and Colonel Phayre differ with regard to the putting in of the poison on the alleged dates. Raoji states, that he got the bottle from the Maharaja, while Damodhar states that he gave it to Salam. Again, Raoji says that he put the packets into his belt, while Damodhar deposes that, in order to burn the packets, Salam ran to Raoji's house, where Raoji also followed. Raoji further says that the Maharaja gave the packets to "Pedro, me, and others." Pedro has entirely denied to have received any packets. Who and how many men were the "others? Raoji states that the Maharaja promised to pay a lac of rupees each while Narsu denies this. From Raoji's statement it appears that he got the bottle about a month and a half before the 9th of November, whereas from what Narsu has stated, it seems that the bottle was got only a few days before that date. Narsu says "all the other servants caused Faizu's name to be written down in the depositions, and I did the same, though I knew it to be false. The three witnesses having become against their masters, and two of them having been granted a pardon, how could their statements be considered to be trustworthy? The evidence of Pedro, the butler, and Abdulla, the sherbet-maker (the residency servants), and the non-production of Salam, Yeshwant Rao, Khanwelkar, Gujaba, Nurudin Borah, and the Hakim, are in favour of the accused. Further, it is far from belief that the measures for poisoning should have continued for a long time, and in so open a manner. Such an act is done by one or two confidentials, and not by a multitude, and when a small quantity of poison, if once administered would put an end to a man's life, there appears to be no reason why it was given and drunk so repeatedly."

We give *in extenso* the opinion of His Highness the Maharaja of Jeypore, by far the most important in the whole record:

"The statements made by Amina Ayah and several other Residency servants establish the fact that sums of money had actually been given to the Ayah and to other servants of the Residency at different times, by order of His Highness the Gaekwar. These sums of money, however, do not appear to have been given, out of any motives to tamper with the Residency servants for improper purposes, but simply as presents from the Gaekwar, and such as are generally given on occasions of marriage and national festivals.

With regard to the graver charge against the Gaekwar, Raoji Havildar states that he did put poison into Colonel Fahyre's tumbler of sherbet, as the Gaekwar had instigated him to do, and that a packet of poison was handed over to him by Narsu. Narsu says he had received the packet from Salam, the Gaekwar's sowar, and that he made it over to Raoji Havildar. On the other hand, Damodhar Punt, the Gaekwar's so-called Private Secretary, states that the Maharaja had ordered him to procure arsenic and diamonds, and that he had instructions from His Highness to give the arsenic to Salam and the diamonds to Yeshwant Rao, the Gaekwar's Jassoos. Salam and Yeshwant Rao, who, according to Damodhar Punt's statement, are to be regarded as the connecting links between himself and Narsu in the above affair, were not produced before the Commission, and there is no means of ascertaining whether they made any statement on the subject before the Bombay Police. Further there is no evidence as to their having conveyed packets of poison from Damodhar Punt to Narsu, excepting the bare assertions of the two accomplices—Damodhar and Narsu.

Damodhar Punt's Statement, as to his having procured, arsenic and diamonds, is not confirmed by any corroborative evidence. He says the diamonds were procured through Nanaji Vithal, Darogah of the Gaekwar's jewel Department. Nanaji, is stated, purchased them from Hemchand Fattechand, the jewellers; but Hemchand declared before the Commission that diamonds were not purchased of him, though he had submitted some for inspection. These, he says, were returned to him by Nanaji. Antmaram, who is a Karkoon in the Gaekwar's state jewel room, also stated before the Commission that the diamonds tendered by Hemchand were not approved and therefore returned to him.

Nurudin Borah from whom arsenic is said to have been procured was not brought before the Commission. It was however admitted by Akbar Ali Khan Bahadur of the Bombay Police in the course of his cross-examination by Serjeant Ballantine that the Borah was kept in confinement. It is therefore to be inferred that the Borah was far from confirming Damodhar Punt's statement with regard to the purchase of arsenic.

The several *yads*, or official memoranda, produced before the Commission out of the records of the private office under Damodhar Punt, do not show any specific sums of money having been paid for diamonds, or for poison of any kind. The sums mentioned in the *yads* were for giving feasts to Brahmins and other charitable and useful purposes. There is sufficient evidence also to prove that these sums were actually spent in such purposes.

Damodhar Punt also mentions a bottle containing some poisonous liquid, prepared of "large ants, snakes, and the urine of a black horse." This poisonous liquid, according to Damodhar's statement, was prepared by a Hakim, and sent to Damodhar's house through one Gujaba, a servant of Khanvelkar, the Maharaja's brother-in-law. Neither the Hakim nor Gujaba was placed in the witness-box, so it is unknown what these men had to state. It appears from the above circumstances that there is hardly any statement of Damodhar Punt with regard to purchase of poisons that has any ground to stand upon, excepting Damodhar Punt's own evidence.

Copper is also mentioned as having been one of the poisonous ingredients put into Colonel Phayre's sherbet, but no clue whatever can be obtained as to who introduced it into the tumbler of sherbet, nor is it detected by the analyses of Doctors Seward and Gray.

The three witnesses, Damodhar Punt, Raoji, and Narsu, whose testimony is considered to form the basis of this grave charge against the Gaekwar, are accomplices, and their evidence is not corroborated by a single respectable witness, nor is their evidence altogether free from suspicion of falsehood. Moreover, two of these accomplices made their statements under promise of pardon. In consideration of all these circumstances, I know not what degree of importance to attach to their evidence.

No documentary evidence, or evidence of a convincing nature, was forthcoming from Damodhar Punt, notwithstanding his position as Private Secretary to the Gaekwar and the command he had over the records of the Maharaja's private office.

Raoji and Narsu, the other two accomplices, who state they had direct intercourse with the Maharaja, and they were asked by His Highness to poison Colonel Phayre, contradict each other in some important points. For instance, Raoji states that the Gaekwar had promised to give him, as well as to Narsu, a lac of rupees each for poisoning Colonel Phayre, Narsu, on the other hand, expresses utter ignorance of any such promise having been made by the Gaekwar. Another important statement of Raoji is strongly contradicted by Pedro, and Raoji states, that packets of poison were given to Pedro and others by the Maharaja, and, while Pedro stoutly denies what Raoji alleges, no clue can be obtained as to who the others were.

Besides the above circumstances, the facts elicited by Serjeant Ballantine in the course of cross-examination of the witnesses, as well as the features of the evidence pointed out by that gentleman, are, in my estimation, weighty and deserving of consideration.

For reason stated above, I cannot persuade myself to believe that the Gaekwar was in any way implicated in the charge, notwithstanding the fact of poison having been found in Colonel Phayre's tumbler of sherbet, and the uncorroborated evidence of the three accomplices—Raoji, Narsu, and Damodhar Punt."

Such are the opinions of the three native members of the Commission. It should be remembered that the two princes are most loyal to the British Government, and are noted for thorough honesty and moderation. The third member is also held in high estimation by the British Government for his intelligence, ability and honesty. Indeed he is often spoken of as an "Indian Statesman." And in the opinion of these three distinguished personages the Gaekwar is declared not guilty of the imputations brought against him. If then the Gaekwar is acquitted by his peers, is it right, just or politic to deprive him of his throne in the face of such consensus of native and independent European opinion. Hitherto the Gaekwar had no sympathy whatever among right-thinking men, but we are sorry to observe that the action of Government has supplied him with that which his own antecedents and character would never have commanded.

ENGLISH OPINION ON THE BARODA COMMISSION.

DIVISION of opinion on the Baroda question is the order of the day. We have seen that the members of the Baroda Commission and the Governor General and the Secretary of State are divided in their opinion on this momentous subject. We find that the English Press is equally divided in opinion. We take two leading organs of English opinion, the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Times*. The *Pall Mall* is opposed to the appointment of the Commission. It says: "No result which could have been obtained would have redeemed from error the judicial proceedings instituted against the Gaekwar; the actual result will compel the whole world to witness a most serious blunder. We must assume, of course, that the Government of India only resolved upon a public trial of the Gaekwar after grave consideration, and in deference to what appeared to them to be weighty reasons of State; but for our own part, we confess a complete inability to divine the reasons that can have outweighed the manifest objections to such a course. From every point of view—whether we consider the relations between the prosecutor and the accused, the nature of the crime to be brought home to him, the nature of the evidence by which his guilt was to be established, or, above all, the history and character of the people for whose edification the trial was presumably instituted—the objections to the policy adopted by the Indian Government seem to us insurmountable." Again:—"We cannot, we repeat, escape from the conclusion that the trial of the Gaekwar was a blunder from first to last. The Government may have thought that a judicial trial would at least satisfy impartial minds; but such minds stood in no need of that satisfaction. Nobody whom the trial would have convinced of the justice of the Government needed a trial to convince him; for no such person seriously would believe that they were seeking a mere pretext for deposing the Gaekwar; and those, as we have said, who do believe this would not have been shaken in their belief by any verdict of a judicial tribunal. But though the trial would in no case have done good had it ended successfully for the Government, it might not have done very much harm. Its failure, however, is a very serious matter, and places the Viceroy and his advisers in a most embarrassing position. It is said that the affair will now be settled by proclamation from the Viceroy on the 19th of this month. We have much confidence in Lord Northbrook's judgment and discretion; but there are some situations beyond the powers of human judgment and discretion to deal with happily, and we much fear that the present situation is one of them. For what is the Viceroy to proclaim? That the Gaekwar is to be restored to his sovereignty? That would be, to say the least, a strange result to follow from a bare verdict of "Not proven" on a charge of attempted murder. Will he say that in spite of the inconclusive termination of his trial the Government will take the responsibility of deposing him on their own moral conviction of his guilt? That conviction might have acted upon at first; and to act upon it now is simply to stultify their own policy in referring the charge against him to a judicial tribunal. Whichever way Lord Northbrook may turn, there seems to be no outlet from the difficulties which surround him. Every road seems to terminate in a political *cul de sac*; and he is gravely to be regretted that he ever took the path which led him to the point where he now stands."

The *Times* is of opinion that the Government should not have directed the trial at all. "There was," says the leading journal, "something unpromising in the Political Resident's mode of procedure at the very outset. On the 9th of November he was engaged in a private inquiry

as to what he doubtless believed to be an attempt to take away his life. He had suffered from a headache, from fever, from a boil, and when to all these it was added that his sherbet had lately become distasteful, the conviction at once flashed on his mind that it was intended to poison him. So far, perhaps, there is not very much to criticize, although it may not be amiss to say in passing that nearly all our difficulties in India have arisen from men in such a position as that held by Colonel Phayre, being we would not say too ready to suspect, for that may be needed, but too ready to make matter of official complaint of their suspicion. An error in the cry of "Wolf!" would be less injurious almost anywhere than in India, where no odds must be counted in danger, and no false alarms, even in appearance, be allowed. When Gaekwar visited the Residency on that same day, and went away without referring to the subject of the poisoning, Colonel PHAYRE had more than a strong suspicion that he was playing a part. Perhaps he was, but if Native Princes stoop to play one kind of part we cannot afford to have our Political Residents playing a part of another kind, especially with such dangerously sharp tools as were in Colonel PHAYRE's hands. The history of that one day, the 9th of November, shows an amount of indiscretion and personal apprehension which we could scarcely have expected from a man of undoubted courage. The vital point however, is whether the Supreme Government did not commit a like error in entering too precipitately into Colonel PHAYRE's views of his position. It may be said, and truly, that it is no reflection upon even the bravest to shun death by poisoning. But nothing could be more damaging than to carry out a suspicion to the issue which Colonel PHAYRE challenged, and which the Indian Government have supported." But having determined to investigate the charges preferred by Col. Phayre, the Government of India, the *Times* holds, acted wisely by appointing an open Commission. Our contemporary says: "The only general good result of the trial is that it has been fair and open to the utmost extent. This will have its due effect on the educated natives, though not much on the masses, who will see only a great fight lost by the English Government" The *Times* is right. The appointment of this open Commission was a constitutional move of the greatest value to India, which was highly appreciated by all classes of natives, and it is to be deeply regretted that the good which was done by this bold and statesman-like measure, has been neutralized by the after-action of Government. But the *Times* gives no uncertain sound as to the policy which the Government should have pursued in this matter. It says: "Perhaps the most just as well as the most prudent course would be to convince ourselves that an error has been committed, and to escape from it by a frank admission that, as the charge has "not been proven," the Gaekwar of Baroda is entitled to the full benefit of the doubt. It would neither be wise nor dignified, after giving the Prince an open trial, to deny him the advantage he has secured. If he should still prove himself the worthless ruler Colonel Phayre deems him, the Indian Government is powerful enough to do what may be needed for the well-being of his people and the security of our own territory. But many years may pass before we fully redeem the undoubted mistake of the entire proceeding, beginning on that unfortunate 9th of November and ending with the Commission's inability to say either "Yes" or "No" to the charge. The chief point we have gained with the Princes is to show them that the policy of annexation is ended, and that if we annex again it will be under pressure and not from choice. The Gaekwar himself can scarcely fail to see that he has narrowly escaped—if, indeed, he have escaped—a great danger, and that the probation on which he was put by the Viceroy must now have a stern, though it will also have a just, meaning." The last English Mail has brought us two other articles in the *Times* on the Baroda question. We regret we have not space for them *in extenso*. We will however publish a few extracts. The *Times* says:

"There are plenty of people ready to say that if the Guickwar of Baroda is reinstated in the position he occupied before the charge hanging over him was made, contempt for the Government of the Queen will spread through all the Bazaars of India, and as the Guickwar has been officially charged with the attempt to poison the Resident at his Court it is necessary for our safety he should be found guilty. This opinion when examined is seen to have its root in cowardice, and the sooner it is put aside the better for our reputation and authority. The complete case for the prosecution as laid before the Commission of Inquiry has now reached England, and it altogether fails to substantiate the charge against the Guickwar. No English Jury would dream of returning a verdict of guilty upon such evidence; a Metropolitan Magistrate would probably hesitate to commit for trial a prisoner brought before him under similar circumstances. The conversations with the Guickwar to which the Ayah Ameena testified were too vague to be made the subjects of serious discussion. The story told by the principal approver, Domodhur Punt, contained in itself elements of great improbability, and the documents by which he sought to support it had been so plainly manipulated as to damage rather than assist his credibility. The evidence of such witnesses could never be quite satisfactory, but it might have been accepted as sufficient if circumstances had been found to confirm it, and if it had not been contradicted by other witnesses at least as trustworthy. In this case there was not confirmation, and there was contradiction.

It is tolerably plain the Guickwar must be restored to the position he occupied before this charge was raised against him—the position of a Native Prince accused of maladministration of his power and allotted a period of probation, his conduct during which must determine the question whether he can be allowed to retain his authority or must be deposed to make room for another. It is, of course, possible that it may be found necessary to remove him in the end, though it is to be noted that Sir Lewis Pelly, the Special Commissioner at Baroda, deposed that, so far as he was aware, the Guickwar was most sincerely desirous to aid him in reforming the administration of his Principality; but the ultimate determination of the Guickwar's fate must be settled without any reference to the recent episode. If it is unsatisfactory that a ruler should be maintained in power, against whom a public accusation has been brought of having contrived a plan of poisoning the Resident at his Court, we cannot but admit that the Indian Government is in some degree responsible for the apparent scandal of its position, but we are afraid the present Guickwar is neither the first nor is he likely to be the last Indian Prince suspected of recourse to secret means of getting rid of an enemy. A similar charge was in fact brought against him many years since, but it was rightly held that an unsupported suspicion could not be admitted as sufficient to bar him from his succession. It cannot now be held sufficient to deprive him of his power. Whether he is to be deposed must depend upon his future conduct, and if that will have to be watched with care it must also be watched with more discretion than has been lately revealed."

If this course had been followed the Government would have vindicated its own policy, and the Gaekwar would have had no reason to complain, while a new era would have dawned upon the administration of Native States.

THE MORAL OF THE BARODA COMMISSION.

THE Baroda Commission points to many important morals, but there is one moral taught by it, to which we wish to draw the attention of the public in the present article. It refers to the relations of the Native Princes with British Residents accredited by the Paramount Power to their Courts. The revelations made by the Baroda Commission seem to shew that these princes are more miserable than the humblest subject of the Queen. The pomp and pageant which surround them do but ill conceal the degradation they suffer. Theoretically the rulers of hundreds of thousands of subjects, practically they are the foot-balls of the single man, who represents the Paramount Power in their States. So long as they can keep him in good humour they are safe, and to what humiliation do they not stoop for the purpose of securing the good will and favour of the great man, the Resident. Not only do they sacrifice all dignity, honor, and power at the shrine of British Supremacy, as represented in the person of the Resident, but they feel under the necessity of coaxing and rewarding his servants, as is shewn in the Baroda case, in order to keep the all-powerful man in good humour, and also to obtain reports of the barometer of his temper. Two Native Princes are reported to have held the following edifying conversation on the subject. Take A. and B. to represent the Princes. A. is very shrewd, intelligent, and hard-working. He takes an active interest in his work and evinces a lively solicitude in the welfare of his subjects. But with all his efforts to promote the prosperity and happiness of his subjects he cannot secure a good name at the head-quarters of the Government. B. hears all this and asks him how does he pull with his Resident. A. replies that he gives him no cause of offence; he attends upon him the prescribed number of days in the week, is very civil to him, and carries out his legitimate wishes. But he cannot as a sovereign prince degrade himself to the humiliation of currying favor with the Resi-

dency through the Residency servants. He stands on his own dignity, and that is the reason he believes that there are so few to put in a good word in his favor before the Resident. B. observes, "you are right. You should not neglect the servants. They are very important personages. The Resident has no eyes but ears, and whatever they pour into his ears, he hears. You are greatly mistaken, my friend. I make it a point to keep both the Resident and his servants in good humour, and I have been more successful than you have been. Although I have no inclination for hard work, still I am invariably praised, whilst all your good efforts for the good of your subjects go for nothing. You do not know that under the British Raj the lowest peon has in fact greater power than the biggest official. Take a Police case. If there is a crime committed, it is the village constable, who has to report upon it, and the after-issue depends much upon the report of the constable. The daroga next reports, and his report takes color from the first man's report, the Police Superintendent's from his, the Magistrate's from his, the Commissioner's from his, and so on when the Governor, who decides upon the matter, practically decides upon the report of the village constable. So it is not wise to neglect even the humblest link in the chain of British Administration." This conversation is reported to have actually occurred, but whether true or not, it faithfully embodies we believe the feeling of Native Princes on the subject. It has however found an authoritative expression in the minute of His Highness the Maharaja Scindia in the Baroda Case. His Highness remarks: "As regards the communication with servants night or day, this is no matter of importance. These visits and requests for presents on marriage and other festive occasions, and the means to secure the favour of the Resident, as well as the procuring of information regarding each other, are matters in accordance with the practice of other Native Princes and persons who have connection with the Residency."

Could any thing be more demoralizing than this? The native Princes habitually coax the Residency servants in order to "secure the favor of the Resident," and if they do not, the consequences may be easily imagined. Now, does not this fact indicate that the relations between the Native Princes and the British politicals are radically wrong and vicious? If the politicals had not been vested with such enormous powers over these princes, as they have gradually acquired, they would not have certainly struck so much terror into these sovereign chiefs. It appears from Col. Phayre's own statements that he used to grant private interviews to men, who made the slightest pretence of a complaint against the Gaekwar, and that certain persons regularly served as "go-betweens," we mean as media of communication between the Resident and the Gaekwar's subjects. Bhow Poonekar, that "honorable man," in whom the gallant Col. had unbounded confidence, was his trusty tool. Now, if men of this kind could get access to the ears of the Resident, and if that Resident happened to be prejudiced against the reigning prince, the position of that prince might be better imagined than described. He must be always miserable; his own subjects would not respect him; his own servants would not obey him; he would naturally seek to curry favour with the Resident, and men, whose shadow he would not perhaps otherwise cross, he might see the necessity of inviting, coaxing, and rewarding; this was the position of the Gaekwar, and we really pity him. Whatever his foibles, there was no hope of correction in the demoralizing atmosphere which he breathed. Far better that a man should live in the cottage and eat his humble bread than that he should wear the crown and eat the humble pie of such scandalous degradation. And we are told by no less a personage than the Maharaja Sindia that what occured in Baroda occurs daily in other Native States. Can there be good feeling, friendship or confidence between the Native Prince and the British Resident at his Court in such a state of things? Our Government we submit is responsible for it. Why should it keep the Native Princes perpetually in leading strings? Why should it permit the Resident to assume such an aggressive and demoralizing position? *The*

Baroda Commission will have done some practical good, if it leads to a revision of the relations between the Native Princes and the British Residents in a proper and enlightened spirit. This is the moral of the Baroda Commission, to which we crave the attention of Government.

EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVES.

WHILE the Civilians have memorialized the Secretary of State against the giving away of covenanted appointments to natives, it is interesting to enquire how offices hitherto held by natives are being taken away from them and conferred upon either Civilians or other Europeans. In all countries the children of the soil have a preferential claim to the public service of their father-land. The position of India is anomalous. It is governed by an alien nation, alien by birth, language, religion, and traditions. The political situation of the country requires that positions of command should remain in the hands of men representing the governing nation. But there are numerous appointments, which may be fitly given to the natives of the country, without weakening in the slightest degree the political hold of the English upon India. The Government in theory acknowledges this principle, but though nearly twelve decades have passed away since the English have taken possession of this country, the law, which embodies this theory, with a few exceptions here and there, remains a dead letter. The higher appointments are as a rule given to the Europeans, and though now and then a move forward is made, still many years do not pass away when this step in advance is retraced. We will give a few examples. In 1853 Lord Dalhousie conferred the Junior Magistracy of Calcutta upon a Native gentleman of tried worth. A howl was raised on all sides when this appointment was made. Disappointed Barristers and natives kept up a running fire through the columns of the newspapers upon this native gentleman, but Lord Dalhousie remained firm, and advised him not to mind the newspaper howlings, saying that he himself was not free from such attacks. This native gentleman performed his magisterial duties with great success, and by way of recognition of his services he was promoted to the Small Cause Court. He was succeeded on the Police Bench by another native gentleman of undoubted ability, but owing to some unfortunate circumstance he was removed from it. Since then no native has been appointed to the Police Bench of Calcutta, though there are two Native Magistrates in the town of Bombay, and one Native Magistrate in the town of Madras. Can it be said that there is not a single native gentleman in the Subordinate Judicial or Executive Service fit to sit on the Police Bench of Calcutta? We could name at least half-a-dozen, who would do honor to the bench. Leaving the service we might point to the ranks of native barristers, pleaders and attorneys, which teem with men of ability and experience. But for the last fifteen years the place has been shut out from the Native. Lord Dalhousie conferred upon a native gentleman the Assistant Collectorship of the Calcutta Customs. This native gentleman was the youngest son of the late Babu Dwarkanath Tagore. The Court of Directors wanted to appoint him a member of the Indian Civil Service, but his illustrious father would not consent to it. But Lord Dalhousie induced him to accept the Customs appointment. On his resignation no other native has been appointed to this post. Babu Shama Churn Sircar was the chief interpretor of the High Court, but on his retirement this appointment has been taken away from the native. In the Small Cause Court of Calcutta the chief clerkship was we believe twice given to a native gentleman, but the Registrarship, a new name given to the old post, has been conferred upon a European. An opportunity lately occurred for conferring the appointment upon a native, but a briefless was in the way, and the opportunity consequently slipped away. If Mr. Allen had not been appointed to Mr. Sconce's place, and if Mr. Jones had been appointed to it, to which he was entitled by reason of his service, the Registrarship could have been conferred upon a native. In the Registration Department an out-sider has lately been put in as Inspector in contravention of the declared views of the Government. In reviewing the last Registration Report the Government admitted that the prospects of the officers of that Department were limited, and that promotion should therefore be given to the officers of the Department in the event of a vacancy. But a Mr. Harrison, who was we believe a Deputy Magistrate, has been shoved in to the prejudice of the claims of the officers of the Department. This gentleman we hear is related to an influential member of the Civil Service, and if the story which has reached us be true, another piece of injustice to the claims of natives to appointments held by natives is contemplated. It is rumoured that this gentleman will be appointed District Registrar of Calcutta on the retirement of Babu Chunder Mohun Chatterjea, and that with a view to give him an opportunity to acquire experience in the Registration line, he has been inducted into that Department. The pay of Babu Chunder Mohun is Rs. 600 per month, but Mr. Harrison cannot as a member of the Subordinate Executive Service reach that salary for years to come. Hence it is said his transfer to the Registration Department. We hope this rumour is not true. The District Registrar of Calcutta has very delicate duties to perform; he has frequently to attend upon native ladies on commission, not to say that he has to examine vernacular deeds and identify native executants to the same, and it is therefore of the greatest importance to appoint to this post a native gentleman of knowledge, unimpeachable moral character, and good social position, that is one who knows society and whom society knows. Then when sub-divisions were first established in the Mofussil by Sir John Peter Grant, his object was to reserve the sub-divisional appointments as prizes to meritorious native officers. But one by one the best sub-divisions have been taken away from the natives. The way in which the sub-division of Baraset was taken away from the natives was for instance a great public scandal. A keen struggle has been going on for some years in respect of this appointment, and off and on unfledged Civilians have been put in charge of this sub-division to the grievous disappointment of the native officers, who had been appointed to the post, and who had discharged their duties with the utmost credit. The above cases we believe are sufficient to shew that far from raising the natives to higher offices in the State with their improved qualifications, some of the good appointments, which used to be conferred upon them, are now being snatched away from them. We need hardly say that we are no blind advocates of our countrymen; if a native is not fit for a post we should not certainly insist upon his appointment to it. Where again political considerations require that a European and not a native should be appointed to a particular post, we would certainly bow to the decision of Government. But there are hundreds of appointments for which the natives possess peculiar aptitude, and which involve no important political considerations, and we see no reason why such appointments should not be given to them. They have a substantial grievance when appointments held by natives are given away to Europeans, but we hope Sir Richard will not give a handle to such a grievance.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE much pleasure in publishing the following names of subscribers in aid of Dr. Sircar's Science Association received last week:

		Rs.
Babu	Subaldass Mullick,	500
,,	Khettermohun Bose, Executive Engineer, Manbhoom	300
,,	Calikadass Dutt, Dewan to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar	200
,,	Radhikanarayan Ghose, Assistant Engineer 24-Pergunnahs	100

WE PUBLISH in another column the minute of Sir Richard Temple, upon which the new Rent Bill is founded. Sir Richard seems to be justly alive to the gravity of the situation in the Eastern districts, and we believe if he had not taken prompt measures, the feeling which exhibited itself in some other districts, would have become worse and worse, and spread far and wide. But hitherto the district officers have preserved order and tranquillity with their moral influence; it is necessary that they should be strengthened with the force of law. Hence it is that Sir Richard proposes the new Bill, which with a few amendments is well calculated to accomplish the objec- aimed at. The Bill is a move in the right direct tion, but it suggests the necessity of a general revision of the Rent law.

AT LAST Saturday's sitting of the Bengal Council a Bill to consolidate and amend the Municipal Acts relating to the Mofussil was introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Dampier. It is the old Bill of Sir George Campbell *minus* those sections to which objection had been taken by the Governor General whilst vetoing it. The Bill is still open to grave objections, some of which were pointed out in Council. The Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Dampier, the Hon'ble Mr. Hogg, and the Hon'ble Babu Juggadananda Mookerjea. Our countrymen throughout the provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa are deeply interested in this Bill, and we call upon them to lose no time in sending in their opinions to the Select Committee. Fortunately the Bill is in charge of a member, who is too conscientious to do consciously any thing, which may injure the people.

SIR DOUGLAS FORSYTH it is said is about to proceed to Mandalay immediately with the ultimatum of the Government of India. We do hope that his mission will result in an amicable settlement of the dispute. We hope the statement in the Rangoon papers is true that His Majesty of Ava is not disposed to quarrel, but unfortunately he is in the hands of bad advisers, who feed him with exaggerated notions of his strength and importance. His Majesty ought to remember that he will gain nothing by going to war with the British Government. For our part we think that the two Powers cannot do better than allow the *statu quo ante* to remain undisturbed. While on this subject we should mention that exception is taken to the official correspondence, which we published regarding the Burmese imbroglio on the ground that it is not quite accurate. We are told that the English letters have been so garbled by omissions or erroneous readings in the course of translation from English to Burmese and *vice versa* as to be scarcely recognizable with their originals. We are sorry if we have been thus misled.

THE ENGLISHMAN has received from Bombay the following telegrams regarding affairs at Baroda:

Bombay April 29th.—There was a ryot yesterday in the city of Baroda. The rioters attempted to seize Laxmibai's child on the *gadi*. Captain Jackson, the Assistant Political Agent, was pelted with stones. Troops were at once sent in from the camp, and the ryot quelled. A number of prisoners were taken, and, with Laxmibai, brought into the camp. General Devine narrowly escaped. Matters are quiet now, but troops are still patrolling the streets.

The Governor leaves for Mahableshwar to-day.

Just heard of fresh disturbances at Baroda. Some native magistrates have been beaten, and Damodhar Panth's house has been sacked.

30th.—Laxmibai was brought to Bombay last night by a special train. Her destination is unknown. The cause of her deportation is only surmised. Perturbations continue in Baroda. Military precautions and due vigilance are maintained.

30th.—Mulsabai, the other Rani, accompanied Laxmibai also her attendants and paraphernalia. They are now under a guard of the Bombay Police in seperate Bungalows. There is no present prospect of their joining Mulhar Rao. The installation not took place before a large populace.

It would have been better if the Ranis had been sent away with Mulhar Rao. Even if there be an appearance of cruelty to the ladies, it is much to be regretted. We can hardly believe, as the writer of the Week in *Saturday's Evening's Englishman* says, that Lukshmibai, whose beauty is the source of Mulhar Rao's woes, has deserted the unhappy Chieftan. That writer says that His Highness had first applied to the Agent for permision to take his fair spouse with him, but Sir Richard Meade said that he had no orders, but would at once telegraph to Simla. His Highness asked him to wait till he ascertained the lady's wishes, when sad to tell the proud beauty refused to accompany him!

THE Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held on Friday last, Raja Narendrakrishna, Vice-President, pre-

siding. The Vice-President announced that owing to sudden illness, the President, Babu Degumber Mitter, could not be present, and, read an address, which the latter had intended to deliver. In this address Babu Degumber, after briefly adverting to the operations of the Committee during the past year, dwelt upon the new Rent Bill, and approved of its provisions generally. He concluded by gracefully vacating the chair in favor of Raja Ramanath Tagore Bahadur C. S. I., whose term of office in the Governor General's Council had expired. A Resolution was then moved voting thanks to the retiring President, and another re-electing Raja Ramanath Tagore as President. Raja Romanath on re-election was requested to take the chair. The annual report of the Committee and the accounts were next submitted and approved and passed. Mr. Herjeebhoy Manickjee was next elected a member. Raja Narendrakrishna then addressed the meeting, commenting on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, the financial policy of Lord Northbrook, and the administration of Sir Richard Temple. Babu Joykissen Mookerjee next noticed the Butwara Bill and the new Rent Bill, which he supported, suggesting at the same time certain amendments in it. Babu Rajendralala Mitra dwelt upon the Calcutta Municipal Bill, deprecating any change in the present constitution inasmuch as it was not practicable to introduce the elective system in the existing circumstances of the town, and also upon the Rent Bill, the principle of which he strongly condemned. Babu Judulal Mullick also commented upon the Calcutta Municipal Bill, drew attention to its provisions regarding bustees, pointed out the injustice of calling upon bustee proprietors to make improvements without facilitating the collection of rent, and wound up by moving that the Association should address the Legislature for the amendment of the Small Cause Court Act,, with a view to facilitate the recovery of rent in the town. After a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting dissolved. We propose to publish a full report in an early issue.

WE OBSERVE that at the suggestion of the presiding Judge, Mr. Justice Phear, the Bharat Asram libel suit against the *Suptahik Samachar* has been withdrawn. Mr. Branson, who appeared for the defendants, made the following statement on their behalf:

"Mr. Branson stated that the defendants disclaimed all knowledge as to whether the statements made in the alleged libellous articles were true or false. They had inserted them for the public good and would have allowed the other side if they thought proper, to insert any contradiction, refutation or denial of the truth or falsity of the imputations contained in those articles. The defendants were perfect strangers to the plaintiff, and were not actuated by any feeling or motive in publishing the articles. Even now they were not in a position to either admit or deny that the statements made in those articles regarding the plaintiff and his society were correct or wholly unfounded. They did not in the slightest degree impute or maintain that the insinuations made in those articles were intended to convey an impression that the ladies belonging to the plaintiff's society, were either irreligious or immoral. Defendants were not acquainted with those ladies, nor were they aware what was the object of the writer in associating their names with the plaintiff. No doubt the innendo about *Maria Monk* afforded some ground for believing what the writer was driving at. But the defendants assured his lordship through him that they had never read *Maria Monk* and consequently were unable to detect the imputation which was intended by the writer to be directed against the ladies. The defendants' sole motive had been that as there was a good deal of scandal abroad about this religious society, that the publication of the articles would bring about a reformation, and that the other side would refute the same, if the remarks were unfounded. The defendants thought it would be better not to allow the steam to injure the boiler, but to let it out, and that there should be a free discussion on the subject. The defendants were not going to justify the libel. But they denied entirely having been actuated by any motive or desire on their part to injure the plaintiff. They were under the impression they were publishing articles against a religious society, to bring about a reform uninfluenced by any personal or private feeling. His Lordship was aware that in America much stronger articles appeared, having for their object the suppression of some religious secret society which very often worked a great deal of mischief.

Mr. Lowe who appeared with Mr. Macrae, for the plaintiff, said, that he was surprised to find, that though the defendants admitted that if they were aware what was intended to be conveyed by the analogy drawn in the articles between the plaintiff's society and *MariaMonk*, they would not have published them, they had not made any attempt to express regret for the injury they had done the plaintiff, who however, was not desirous of pressing the case and was willing to withdraw it if the other side expressed regret and were willing to withdraw the grossly libellous imputations contained in those articles.

His Lordship thought that the defendants ought to express regret or tender some kind of apology.

Mr. Branson said that his clients certainly regretted they had been induced to publish the articles in question and would withdraw them. If any one had been injured by their publication they regretted it very much.

His lordship—I suppose that will satisfy you, Mr. Lowe.

Mr. Lowe—Yes, my lord.

His lordship—Then I understand you withdraw the suit.

Mr. Lowe—Yes. my lord.

His lordship—The only question is as to the costs.

Mr. Lowe—We leave that entirely in your lordship's hands.

His lordship—I think each party should pay his own costs.

Mr. Lowe—I should like to see the form in which my friend has expressed his regret.

Mr. Branson—I do not remember my lord, what I said.

His lordship—I think I can draw that up for you, Mr. Lowe.

Mr. Lowe—Very good my lord.

The crowd dispersed sadly disappointed.

We take the above report from the *Indian Statesman*. Since it was in type we have been informed that it is not quite accurate and have been furnished with the following authenticated record of the Court:

"Upon Mr. Macrae, on behalf of the plaintiff, opening the case and reading the alleged libels, the Judge expressed a strong opinion as to the gross and coarse character of one of them and put it to Mr. Branson that his client ought irrespective of any legal question as to whether the words complained of constituted a libel against the plaintiff or any other person to be glad to take the first opportunity of disavowing and apologizing for them.

Mr. Branson then explained that the defendants were not, themselves the writers of the objectionable passages. That they held their periodical open to correspondence from all parties and that the articles in question or some of them were actually contributed by Brahmos who had lived in the Asram. The defendants had not themselves the slightest intention of casting any imputations upon the character of the plaintiff or of any other inmate of the Asram and unreservedly withdrew all imputations which were conveyed in the published passages set out in the plaint. They also regretted that they had published them On this apology and expression of regret being made on the part of the defendants, the Judge recommended that the plaintiff should withdraw his suit. Each party to pay his own costs.

This course was agreed to accordingly &c,

(A true copy.

(Sd) W. R. FINK,

Offg. Assistant Registrar.

All's well that ends well. If it be true as we are informed that something like the above explanation had originally appeared in the *Suptahik Samachar*, it would have been better if no proceedings had been instituted. The suit has involved both parties in needless costs.

WHO CAN say what the morrow may bring forth? It was only the other day Lord Hobart Governor of Madras, presided at the annual exhibition of the local Presidency College, but before a full report of his speech had reached Calcutta intelligence of his sudden death arrived. Such is the uncertainty of human life! He was the eldest son of the sixth Earl of Buckinghamshire and was born in 1818. He was for some years Private Secretary to Sir George Grey. In 1872 he came out as Governor of Madras and during the last two years and a quarter he distinguished himself by his conciliatory native policy. He evinced a warm sympathy for the Mamomedans. His address at the Presidency College has now a melancholy interest. After pointing out the advantages of education he said:

"Some persons assert, that by promoting education in India we are doing that which is injurious both to India herself and to the stability of our own Government:—That education bears pernicious fruit in personal independence and political discontent, which may result in changes disastrous to the interests of this country. Let no one believe it. Ignorance not knowledge, is the parent of political as well as of moral evil. Every step in the progress of reason and reflection adds depth and strength to the foundations of an empire based on principles such as ours. Education brings with it a delighting and ennobling sense of power and freedom; but it brings with it also a sense of the great duty of political subordination and enlightened liberality of thought which can appreciate the value, understand the difficulties and make allowance for the defects of a pure and liberal administration. There is another and yet greater advantage. This invitation of the West to the East—this call to intellectual association will prove (as I firmly believe) to have been the knell of every painful feeling that ever marred or impeded their intercourse, Misunderstanding, which is another name for ignorance, lies at the root of every kind and degree of national antipathy. Religious animosity, which is another name for unreasoning folly, cannot breath in the pure atmosphere of mental advancement. The prejdudice which could resist both time and civilisation melts away before the sympathy of thought; men learn that the mere accident of race or faith can never affect either the motive or the obligation of mutual friendliness and respect and that whether born in England or India and whatever may be the creeds and dogmas which have kept them so long and so lamentably asunder, their duty and interest for the present, and their hope for, the future, is in reality the same."

Nobly said, but alas! who for a moment dreamt that the breath, which gave utterance to these noble sentiments, should be still within a few days!

THE Rangoon papers brought by the last Rangoon mail contain the speeches delivered at the farewell dinner given to the Hon'ble Ashley Eden before his departure from British Burma. The dinner was a great success, and the chairman, Mr. Halliday, highly eulogized Mr. Eden's administration. Mr. Eden acknowledged the toast *drunk* to his health in a very able and interesting speech. He told his hearers that he was "most anxious that nothing should be said or done calculated to encourage the idea which seems unaccountably to have arisen in some quarters to the effect that there is a likelihood that his connection with British Burma will cease with his departure in a few days." "It is of course impossible," he observed, "to look forward with any certainty even for so short a time as six months, but gentlemen, I can only say that if I live and am well, it is my clear intention to be back amongst you again in the winter, and I should indeed be sorry to nthink that anything could prevent fulfilment of that intention (*cheers*)." He modestly declined to take any credit for the success, which has attended his administration of British Burma, and with a highly honorable feeling gave the whole credit to the officers of the local administration, but we all know who has roused to life the Sleepy Hollow. He made one remark respecting the Burman officers, which we would commend to all Indian officers. He said:

"In one respect, and it is a most important respect, I am glad to think that the officers in Burma are entitled to be credited with the qualifications which are unhappily in the present day becoming less common in other parts of India, that is in their sympathy with and individual interest in the people of the country in which they are living. Any successful government of a country is impossible, where the officers do not make themselves acquainted with the native mode of thought, and in all they do, act, with due regard to native feeling; this can only be attained by unreserved friendly intercourse with the people, and it is to the existence of this sympathy in Burma, that the success and popularity of our rule are in this province mainly attributable." (*Hear hear!*)

He thus happily alluded to his successor:

"From all I have said, it will be seen that my lines, as head of this administration, have fallen in pleasant places. I have had no difficulties to contend with, no obstacles to overcome; like the Captain of a ship in the Trade winds, I have only had to steer a straight course and keep a good look out, feeling that we could carry on at any pace without danger or hindrance. Under the circumstances, it will be readily understood, that I give up the command, even for a time, with much regret, but I have the consolation, and it is a very great one; I am making over the command to an old and tried friend of twenty-five years, trained in the same field and under the same political masters as myself. He will, I am sure, administer the Government under the same principles which have guided me; and he will, I am also sure, receive the same support I have received. (*Cheers.*)"

He thus adverted to rumours of war:

"Something has been said this evening of the excitement caused in the country by rumours of war. I am afraid that it is true that uncertainty has led to some temporary derangement of trade which I deeply regret, but this will only be for a time; I do not for one moment apprehend that the King of Burma will be so ill advised or so foolish as to resist the moderate and just demands of the Government of India: but should it be otherwise, it is a small matter. A misunderstanding would, with our present armament, our facilities of transport, our advance base of operations, our knowledge of the country and the loyalty of our own people be no longer a matter of years, but settlement in a few days. (*Cheers*)."

Mr. Rivers Thompson, the new Chief Commissioner, responded in suitable terms to the toast drunk to his health.

OFFICIAL.

BILL TO PREVENT AGRARIAN DISTURBANCES.

THE objects and reasons of this Bill are fully set out in the following Minute of the Lieutenant-Governor.

H. L. DAMPIER.

The 21st April, 1875.

Minute by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal dated 16th March, 1875.

FOR some time past there have been indications of renewed uneasiness and uncertainty here and there in some parts of Bengal, more especially Eastern Bengal, in the relations between landlord and tenant, particularly touching rates of rent. I say renewed, because it will be in the recollection of all who are conversant with these affairs that there were troubles of this sort in 1873, which showed themselves markedly in the Pubna District.

2. The Government of India, in a despatch No. 413 of the 23rd September, 1873, reviewed the correspondence which had taken place regarding the Pubna troubles, and communicated general instructions to the Government of Bengal. Among those instructions there occurs the following passage:—

"The policy of altering or enlarging revenue jurisdictions under Act X. of 1859, and similar laws will however require careful deliberation. Meanwhile, if the dissensions in the Pubna District are ascertained to be spreading and becoming organized, the difficulties which they present

will have to be met at once. In that event, the more direct and comprehensive way of treating them may be by passing a law which would authorize the appointment of a special commission vested with powers to investigate summarily the differences between landlord and tenant, or between various proprietors and occupants of the soil in certain districts, and to settle them by award that shall not be open to appeal. His Excellency in Council believes that such a measure for the solution of exceptional difficulties of the kind now arising would not be without precedent in Bengal.

"These, then, of the plans of action suggested by the papers now before the Government, are those which appear the most readily practicable and the most likely to succeed."

3. These and other instructions were subsequently approved by the Secretary of State.

4. Although the procedure above indicated might be susceptible of some improvement in detail, so as to be more exactly adapted to the custom and practice in provinces which are under a permanent settlement, still the principle of the above instruction is precisely applicable to contingencies which are arising, or seem likely to arise, and affords, as I believe, the only means of obviating the chance of the recurrence of agrarian troubles in Bengal.

5. There are occasionally complaints on the part of ryots and on the part of zemindars in some portions of the districts around Calcutta or in Central Bengal. At the present time, however, such complaints on both sides are more rife and more extensive in Eastern and South-Eastern Bengal. This may be illustrated by the following extracts from the Dacca Commissioner's annual report, dated the 12th September, 1874:—

Para. 26.—Class-feeling has not shown itself prominently or in any overt way during the year of report; but district officers' report that there are not wanting indications of very unsatisfactory relations between some landlords and their tenants on the question of rent. The landlords see the ryots profiting largely by the enhanced value of the produce of what they regard as their property, and they desire not unnaturally to intercept some portion of this increased return some way or other; the action taken by the authorities against the levy of illegal cesses, leads them further to desire to place this demand on the safe footing of higher rents.

"Formerly this course would have been effected by gradually getting the ryots over to agree, on the ground of their increased profits, to submit to an enhanced demand of rent; but now such attempts are steadily and passively resisted by the tenantry in combination. The landlord's agents send for them; they ignore the summons altogether; they go further, and withhold all rents, and virtually decline any communications whatever with their landlords except through the medium of the Courts.

"27. To have to sue the entire body of his tenantry in any large estate is ruinous work to the landlord; his position therefore forces him to do all that conciliatory measures can achieve, and so grave complications are for the time being tided over; but I apprehend that an open rupture must come sooner or later. The state of things to which I have referred is unfortunately not confined to any particular tract of country; it exists more or less in each of the four principal districts of this Division."

6. The annual report of the Commissioner of Chittagong, dated the 4th September, 1874, contains the following passage:—

"*Para.* 62.—In the Chittagong District, the relations between landlord and tenant are never very cordial, and the Magistrate cites one instance in which the purchasers (Hindu zemindars and rice-traders) of a large estate, at a sale for arrears of revenue, have been unable to settle with the ryots without the assistance of the Collector, to whom they (the purchasers) made application through the Civil Court for detailed measurement and record of rights, the tenants steadily refusing to point out their lands or come to any terms. Of course the new proprietors want to enhance, and equally of course the tenants are opposed to any such proceeding."

7. Since these reports were written, agrarian trouble actually began to occur during January, 1875, in the eastern portion of the Dacca District. A dispute regarding rent broke out between the zemindars and ryots, and threatened to lead to breaches of the peace. If this should not be allayed, it was feared that similar disputes might break out in some of the neighbouring districts. The Commissioner was immediately instructed to warn all parties concerned of the consequences of a breach of the peace, and to invite them to settle their differences by private arbitrations. Efforts are now being made to effect such amicable arrangement, whether they will prove successful remains to be seen.

8. It is always difficult to forecast the line which an agrarian people may take, or what provocation might be given on either side. But the opinion seems gaining ground among well-informed persons, that if once any considerable trouble of this nature were to break out anywhere, the movement might spread to other places. In some localities the zemindars might get the upper hand, in other places the ryots. In some localities the strength of both parties might be nearly balanced, and might be equal to sustaining a contest for some time. All circumstances of this nature would either be altogether harmful, or else would do more harm than good.

9. In parts of Eastern Bengal there seems to be a disposition among the ryots to combine in something like leagues and unions. The object of such combinations may be various. If any success were obtained by these means, there is always a chance that ryots might begin to combine in refusing to pay rent, whereon the zemindars might try to collect it by force. The consequences of a combination with this object would be serious in the present state of Bengal. It may be hoped that things will not, under any circumstances come to this pass; still we should guard against the possibility of such contingencies arising.

10. As yet no trouble has actually broken out since 1873, but as just seen, something of the kind was very nearly breaking out quite recently, and despite our efforts, many yet break out. And the apprehension of similar occurrences elsewhere in Bengal is, I believe, present to many thoughtful minds. It may be therefore well to consider what measures the local Government can take in the existing state of the law for doing justice to both parties and for preventing agrarian trouble.

11. In such event it could take steps for causing the disputed matters to be speedily determined by appointing additional native judges, moonsifs and others, if necessary, under the supervision of a special European Judge. It could station extra police to maintain order, and ensure that the judicial enquiries should be carried out quietly. If the zemindars should attempt to act contrary to the judicial awards, it could easily apply a remedy. If the ryots should refuse compliance with judicial decisions, and if necessity arose to execute decrees in large numbers, it could doubtless help in that process. But beyond and above all the things abovementioned, it could use its influence to prevent either party from resorting to violence, and to induce them to submit to private arbitration.

12. These resources taken together are not inconsiderable, and if we cannot get more or better resources, we must make the best of them, and with them we must essay and strive to prevent agrarian troubles in Bengal. But in these resources there are, I think, several defects which might be easily remedied.

13. It will be seen presently that, among the disputed cases, the most important class will relate to economic and agricultural questions with which civil courts are not well fitted to deal; yet the procedure above described is entirely that of the ordinary civil courts. Suit must be formally brought before anything is done. The cases must be carried through the regular stages. Matters pertaining to the profits of cultivation, the value of produce, the customary rents, and the like, will be argued out by opposing counsels; appeals may be laid; and decisions can be enforced only by the formal process of execution. However prompt the courts might be, all these proceedings must take time; meanwhile excitement might be growing over the whole district. Moreover, the courts could not well travel beyond the evidence adduced, and might not be able to enter upon economic considerations notwithstanding that such consideration might have an important bearing upon the cases.

14. That the main questions at issue are economic and agricultural, will be apparent. Thus:—There will seldom be any serious dispute between the tenants-at-will and the zemindars. The really serious disputes arise between the zemindars and the ryots having right of occupancy—mainly men who have been twelve years and upwards in possession; a class who are constantly growing in numbers and representing larger proportions of the aggregate of ryots, and who probably are already the most important section of the ryots. In some places the zemindars apparently allege that these occupancy ryots are paying very low rents, and consequently claim some enhancement. The occupancy ryots apparently allege that they ought not to be required to pay more than the old established rates of their parts of the country. If the zemindars persist in their demands, they cannot eject the occupancy ryots, but they can sue them under section 18 of Act VIII. of 1869, which I will here quote *in extenso*:—

"18. No ryot having a right of occupancy shall be liable to an enhancement of the rent previously paid by him, except on some one of the following grounds namely—

"That the rate of rent paid by such ryot is below the prevailing rate payable by the same class of ryots for land of a similar description and with similar advantages in the places adjacent.

"That the value of the produce, or the productive powers of the land, have been increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot.

"That the quantity of land held by the ryot has been proved by measurement to be greater than the quantity for which rent has been previously paid by him."

15. The civil court then will have to decide whether all or any of the above grounds are or are not found in the particular case or class of cases. Each of these grounds involves questions for the due settlement of which a civil court cannot be fitted, while the land revenue officers are peculiarly fitted. The third ground, involving questions of actual measurement, may be more exactly arguable than either of the other two, and the court could order a survey. Otherwise, as regards native measurements, there are frequent disputes as to the unit of local measurement, the length of the measuring rod and the like, which had far better be referred to the land revenue authority than to any other. The first ground involving questions whether certain other lands in places adjacent are of a similar description, or possess similar advantages with the lands of which the rent is disputed, is not one to be determined by speeches and counter-speeches of counsel, nor one to be settled by witnesses into whose evidence opinion may largely enter, and all this before a native judge who may not know, and probably would not know much of these matters. The second ground is the most difficult of all, as it involves questions whether the produce, or the productive powers of the land, have been increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot. These are purely economic and agricultural questions which cannot possibly be argued and discussed and attested in the court of law with any advantage, or with any definite authority. And yet this is the very ground on which the most serious are likely to arise; and is actually the ground of which the disputes in Eastern Bengal are now arising.

16. This latter point may be illustrated by presenting substances of the dispute now pending in Eastern Bengal. There are very extensive lands of good quality in the valley of the River Megna of which rent has been at the rate of 12 annas to 14 annas per beegha. The zemindars say that this rate is very low, and demand an enhancement up to 18 annas and 20 annas. The cultivators, chiefly occupancy ryots, refuse to pay any enhancement upon the established and widely prevailing rate. If the dispute is to have a legal solution, the zemindars will have to bring a suit against the ryots under the section 18 of Act VIII. of 1869 above quoted, and according to one or other of three grounds already adverted to. It is not probable that much difficulty will arise in this instance regarding the first and third ground, namely, the amount of land in the cultivator's possession and the general prevalence of the 12 annas to 14 annas rate. The contest must be upon the second of the three grounds, namely, that the value of the produce and productive powers of the land having been increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot. This ground involves general considerations regarding the past and present state of Eastern Bengal; the progress of trade, especially the export trade; the range of prices on the one hand, and on the other hand the expenses of cultivation; the just share of the ryot in the profits of cultivation, the general tendency of a rural custom, and the like. It is not easy to imagine matters less suited for discussion in the law courts when the people are becoming angry on both sides. Manifestly, the proper persons to bring these urgent matters to a just and peaceful issue are the Collector and his officers. It should be their business, after a general review of the circumstances, to arrive at a conclusion as to whether the 12 annas to 14 annas rate per beegha ought to be maintained as the ryots say, or be raised to 18 and 20 annas as the zemindars say; and if not, then whether it should be raised to something between 14 annas and 18 annas. Or better still, they should try to induce the parties to submit the matter to private arbitration and abide by its results. And they ought to be able to compel obedience from both parties to any decision that may be formed, which they at present have not the lawful power to do, and which they may not, we fear, be able to do.

17. I present this case as an instance, which is now in the course of occurrences. The instances which occurred in the Pubna District during 1873 were apparently more difficult, involving questions under all of the three grounds above prescribed. And cases equally difficult may occur at any time in other parts of Bengal.

18. I do not enter into any question as to the fitness or otherwise of the civil courts to decide these matters in individual disputes in times of quiet. I only say that the courts cannot be so well fitted as the land revenue officers to decide these matters affecting large numbers of excitable people on both sides in times of disquiet. In these matters of urgency my desire is to obtain power by law to do through the land revenue officers—that is, the Commissioners, the Collectors, and the Deputy Collectors, under the supervision of the Board of Revenue—that which in these cases is needfull for the peace and good government of the country, without proposing any general change of the existing rent law.

19. By the present rent law (VIII. of 1869, Bengal Council) the suits regarding rent are heard by the civil courts. They used to be heard by the land revenue authorities, but they were by this Act transferred to the civil courts. Many authorities consider that this transfer was not expedient. The zemindars (as I understand) generally dislike the change that was then made, and would desire to see these suits transferred to the revenue authorities. It is difficult to gauge the opinion of the ryots in regard to the transfer of these suits to the civil courts: I have no evidence, however, that they dislike it. I believe that the civil courts have done the work well according to the existing law, and have at least endeavoured to do substantial justice. Still, my own opinion inclines to be against the transfer that was made in 1869. I apprehend that the speedy and judicious decision of suits between landlord and tenant is very important to the future tranquility of Bengal, and that the land revenue authorities are much better fitted than the civil courts can be to decide these suits to the advantage of both parties concerned. As, however, the law was passed in 1869, I am not disposed to move for its being essentially altered; although, if the general wish should hereafter prove to be favourable to such alteration, I for one should not be able to object to consider the question.

20. But I recommend that the local Government should have the power, upon good cause shown, of appointing a Collector or the other officer to settle authoritatively disputes of the nature above described, and enforce awards. There need not be any power taken to interfere unduly between landlord and tenant, but only when the parties might apply for our interposition, and when such interposition might appear necessary for peace and good government. There would be no necessity for giving more power to the Collector in fixing rents and rent rates than that which is given by the existing rent law to the courts of justice. There would be nothing of a one-sided character in the matter. The zemindar might make application, so might the ryot. Sometimes one of two parties might avail himself of this advantage, sometimes the other. The interposition need not extend beyond certain limits and would be limited to matters of rent and its rates, and the measurement of land as affecting such rents. Within the declared area of interference, and during the period of its duration all which would be determined by the local Government), the Collector would, after due enquiry, and after hearing both parties, fix the rates of rent according to the circumstances, and with such guidance as the existing laws might afford him, and decide suits for rent, both current dues and arrears. The Collector should also have the power of fixing the disputed rents for a short term of years, so that there might be no chance of need arising for again exercising interposition within a reasonable period. The matters thus decided would not be open to revision by the civil courts, but appeals would lie to the Commissioner and to the Board. It might be thought that the parties, zemindars and ryots, or either party as the local Government might direct, might be charged with the expenses incurred by the State by these proceedings; I do not however, recommend this. The Collectors and the Deputy Collectors—in fact the existing establishment—would be able to do the work, which would not be of constant occurrence. For these objects I have prepared a draft Bill which I should be glad to introduce into the local legislature of Bengal. If this Bill with such modifications or improvements as might be made during its passage through Council should become law with the assent of the Governor-General, then, for all ordinary times and occasions, the Acts (VIII. of 1869 and X. of 1859) would remain in force as the rent law of Bengal. The difference between the present and proposed practice would be this, that we should have the legal power, which we have not now, of dealing effectively with agrarian troubles through the agency of the land revenue authorities. It is only by such agency that the occurrence of these troubles is or can be prevented in Bengal. At present such prevention is effected at the best in a precarious and uncertain way: perhaps it may not always be effected. But if the proposed Bill were to become law, the land revenue authorities would have power to prevent such trouble breaking out and would be under responsibility for such prevention, which responsibility they would, I believe, be able to discharge to the satisfaction of Government.

21. The foregoing remarks are meant to apply to Bengal mainly; they are, however, equally applicable to Behar. They apply, however, in a less degree to Orissa, to the Chota Nagpore Province, and to Julpigoree and the Western Dooars, to which territories the Act (VIII. of 1869) was not extended, and where rent suits are tried by the land revenue officers under Act X. of 1859. In these districts the local Government has far better means of preventing agrarian trouble than in Bengal and Behar. Still its hands would be strengthened even in Orissa and Chota Nagpore by the passing of the proposed Bill. I would therefore extend the measure to all the territories under the Government of Bengal.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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,,	Doorgadass Sircar, Mean-mear	5	0	0
,,	Bepinbehary Ghose, Modoobonee	13	4	0
Raja	Duckhinarunjon Mookerjee, Bahadoor Lucknow	3	4	0
Baboo	Shibodhone Banerjee, Jullander	10	0	0
,,	Shamsagore Mookerjee, Punna	10	0	0
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ERRATUM.

Read Troylucknath Mookerjee, in lieu of Troy-lucknath Dutt, Jamalpore 2 0 0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*April* 28, 1875.

GENERAL.—*The 22nd April* 1875.—Mr. Edward Vesey Westmacott, Acting Magistrate and Collector, Dinagepore, is vested with the powers of a Collector in Julpigoree, under Act X of 1870, for the purpose of taking up lands for the Nothern Bengal (State Railway).

Mr. Harry Wallis Alexander, Magistrate and Collector of Shahabad, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 24, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 3rd May 1875.

Mr. Christopher Henry Vowel, Acting Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. W. Alexander, or until further orders.

The 26th April 1875.—Baboo Gooroo Churn Dass, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Moorshedabad, is allowed leave for six days under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 26 April 1875.

The 27th April 1875.—Baboo Ram Sunker Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24 Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for 15 days, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 29th March 1875.

Baboo Okhoy Coomer Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector, Maldah, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. H. Thompson acted as Deputy Collector of Customs, Calcutta, from the 25th March to the 6th April 1875.

The Services of Surgeon W. E. Griffiths are replaced at the disposal of the Government of India in the Military Department.

POLICE.—*The 12th April* 1875.—Mr. C. E. Gouldsbury, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Dacca, is allowed leave to Europe on Medical Certificate for 18 months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding 30 days.

The 23rd April 1875.—The following notification is substituted for the one bearing date the 23rd February 1875, and published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 24th idem.—

Mr. Frederic Angelo Dawson having been appointed to be an Assistant Superintendent of Police in Backergunge while on privilege leave granted to him under orders of the 30th January 1875, the unexpired portion of the leave is cancelled from the 24th February 1875, the date of the orders appointing him to that post.

Mr. Charles Raban, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mozufferpore, is transferred to Shahabad, and is posted to Sasseeram and Bhubooa.

REGISTRATION.—*The 20th April* 1875.—Baboo Rudra Narayan Roy is appointed to be Sub-Registrar of Panchkury, in Midnapore, *vice*, Moulvi Bahauddin, removed.

The 26th April 1875.—Mr. P. Hurley, who was, under orders of the 12th April 1875, appointed temporarily to act as Inspector-General of Registration, is also appointed to act as Marriage Registrar of Calcutta under Act V of 1872, Senior Marriage Registrar of the Town under Section 16 of Act V of 1865, and Registrar of Parsee Marriages under Act XV of 1865, beyond the local limits of the ordinary civil urisdiction of the High Court, till relieved by Mr. J. A. Hopkins.

The 27th April 1875.—Baboo Sunjeeb Chunder Chatterjea, Special Sub-Registrar of Burdwan, is allowed leave, without pay, for 10 days under Section 9, Supplement 7 of the Civil Leave Code, from the 19th instant.

Baboo Gooroo Dass, is appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Burdwan during the absence of Babu Sunjeeb Chunder Chatterjea, or until further orders.

EDUCATION.—*The 23rd April* 1875.—Baboo Pyari Charan Sirkar, Professor, Presidency College, is allowed leave for three weeks, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from 1st April 1875.

Baboo Prasana Kumar Lahiree, M.A., is appointed to act as Assistant Lecturer in the Presidency College during the absence, on leave of Baboo Pyari Charan Sarkar, or until further orders.

The following gentlemen are appointed to be members of the District School Committee of Mozufferpore :—

Moulvi Syed Mahomed, Special Sub-Registar.

Moulvi Abdool Jubber, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.

The 23th April 1875.—Mr. H. Woodrow, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, is allowed subsidiary leave from 10th to the 18th February 1875, to enable him to join his appointment on return from furlough.

Mr. E. Lethbridge, Officiating Principal, Krishnaghur College, is allowed special leave for six months, under Section 15, of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from 4th May 1875, together with subsidiary leave under Section 18 (a) of Code from the 1st idem.

Baboo Omesh Chunder Dutt, Professor, Krishnaghur College, appointed to act as Principal of that College during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Omesh Chunder Dutt, or until further orders.

The 16th April 1875.—Baboo Prosonno Kumar Ghose, B.L., is appointed to be Moonsif of Thacoorgong, in Dinagepore.

Baboo Radha Churn Roy, L.L., is appointed to be Moonsif of Seebgunge, in Dinagepore, but will continue to act as Moonsif of Ishragunge, in Mymensingh, until relieved.

Baboo Soshee Bhushun Sen, B.L., is appointed to be Moonsif of Shazadpore, in Rajshahye, but will act as Mooneif of Rampore Haut till relieved by Baboo Sharedaprosad Chatterjea.

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EDITOR, *Sahachar Newspaper.*

No. 12 Gurpar or Bar Library 24-Pergunnahs. The 23rd March 1875. 87

BHARAT ASRAM LIBEL CASE.

The Judge having expressed "a strong opinion as to the gross and coarse character of one of the alleged libels," the defendants through their Counsel "unreservedly withdrew all imputations which were conveyed in the published passages, set out in the plaint," and "also regretted that they had published them." Thereupon the suit was withdrawn, each party undertaking to pay his own costs.

I beg now to appeal to all Brahmo friends and the public, and trust that the righteousness of the Plaintiff's cause will induce them to help him to meet the costs incurred by him.

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